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No. 9363.—Vol. LX. THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1895. Price One Penny.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
Mr. Walter and Mr. Morell, Managers.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, by Oscar Wilde. Messrs. Lewis Waller, Alfred Bishop, Charles Brookfield, Cosmo Stuart, Stanford, Dean, Merrick, Goodhart, and Charles H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Maude Millett, Florence West, Vane Featherston, Helen Forsyth, Spencer Brunton, and Julia Neilson. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, at 2.30. LAST 9 NIGHTS. TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, 100th PERFORMANCE of AN IDEAL HUSBAND which will be followed at 10.45 by FORTUNE'S FOOL, a Dramatic Episode by Henry Hamilton, —Sole Lessee, Mr. Tree.

GAIETY THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. George Edwardes.
EVERY NIGHT, at 8, Doors open at 7.40,
THE SHOP GIRL.
Written by H. J. W. Dam. Music by Ivan Caryll,
and
Additional Songs by Adrian Ross and Lionel Monckton.
SPECIAL MATINEE, WEDNESDAY NEXT, at 2. Doors open 1.45.
Box-office open daily, 10 to 5.

DALY'S THEATRE, LEICESTER SQUARE.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Augustus Daly.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30,
AN ARTIST'S MODEL.
Preceded at 8.0. by DINNER FOR TWO.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT at 8.30, and MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30, a New Musical Farce, entitled
GENTLEMAN JOE
(The Hanson Cabby).
Words and Lyrics by Basil Hood, Music by Walter Slaughter. Mr. Arthur Roberts, supported by a powerful company. Preceded at 7.45 by THE HOUSE OF LORDS. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 to 10.

LYRIC THEATRE.
HIS EXCELLENCY, at 8.15, TO-NIGHT, by W. S. Gilbert and F. Osmond Carr. Mr. George Edwardes Company. LAST NIGHTS. Mesdames Jessie Bond, Ellaline Terriss, Alice Barnett, Gertrude Aylmer, May Russ, and Nancy McIntosh; Messrs. Rutland Barrington, Charles Kenningham, John Le Hay, Arthur Playfair, Augustus Cremer, and George Grossmith. Doors open at 7.50. LAST MATINEE WEDNESDAY NEXT. Box-office 10 to 10.

GARRICK THEATRE.
Mr. John Hare.
EVERY EVENING, at 8.
THE NOTORIOUS MRS. EBBSMITH,
By A. W. Pinero.
Mr. John Hare, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Messrs. Ian Robertson, C. A. Smith, J. Carne, F. Thorne G. Du Maurier, C. Caravoglia; Mesdames Calhoun, Jeffreys, Halsey, C. Groves, and Patrick Campbell. Box-office open daily 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. Doors open 7.30 P.M. MATINEES, SATURDAYS, March 30, April 6 and 20, at 2. Doors open 1.30.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. George Alexander.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 9.0, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, by Oscar Wilde. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Herbert Waring, Allan Aynesworth, H. H. Vincent, Arthur Royston, Frank Dyall, F. Kinsey Peile; Miss Rose Leclercq, Mesdames Violet Lyster, Elliot Page, Mrs. George Canninge, Miss Irene Vanbrugh. At 8.30, IN THE SEASON. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, March 30, WEDNESDAY NEXT, April 3, and EVERY SATURDAY, at 3. Doors open 2.30.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
HANSEL AND GRETEL (in English).
EVERY EVENING at 8.0. SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30. Sir Augustus Harris has made arrangements with the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company to give seven performances weekly of this enormously successful opera. Conductor, Signor Arditi. Box-office now open.

GLOBE THEATRE—Lessee, W. S. Penley.
CHARLEY'S AUNT. By Brandon Thomas.
W. S. PENLEY as CHARLEY'S AUNT.
EVERY EVENING, at 9. Preceded, at 8, by THE JOURNEY'S END
Box-office open 10 to 5. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 3, excepting Saturday next, owing to Boat Race.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.
TO NIGHT, at 8,
THE LION HUNTER.
Messrs. Edward Terry, Harcourt Beatty, George Belmore, Leslie Kenyon; Mesdames Alexes Leighton, Madge McIntosh, and Fanny Brough.
Preceded at 8.0 by KEEP YOUR OWN COUNSEL. Doors open 8.0. Carriages 10.50. Telephone 2,702. Box-office open 10 to 5 and 7.30 to 10. FIRST MATINEE, SATURDAY April 6th, at 2 P.M.—Business Manager, Mr. H. T. Buckwell.

STRAND THEATRE.
Mr. E. F. Bradley, Manager.
TO-NIGHT, at 9, a new farcical comedy, entitled
A LOVING LEGACY.
By F. W. Sidney. Mr. William H. Day, Mr. Oswald Yorke, Mr. Mark Kinghorne, Mr. J. A. Rosier, Mr. R. B. Teesdale, and Mr. Alfred Maltby; Miss May Whitty, Miss Nancy Noel, Miss Katie Lee, Miss Ettie Williams, and Miss Lizzie Henderson, &c. Preceded, at 8, by SALT TEARS.

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OPEN ALL DAY, 12 noon to 11 P.M. Grand Spectacle, 2.30 and 8.30. THE ORIENT, or an Embassy to the East. 2,500 Performers, Troupes of Bedouins, Dromedaries, Camels, Horses, &c. Seraglio Gardens. Indian Jungle. Temple of Venus. Pictures of the Thames. Grandest Show on Earth.

ALHAMBRA.
TO-NIGHT, at 10.0, the New Grand Spectacular Ballet, entitled ALI BABA, in which Mdlle. Grisolais, with her Aerial Ballet, will appear. At 8, A DAY OUT. At 8.50, the Living Pictures, including the "Faust and Marguerite" series. Varieties by the Auckolets, the Meierbach Arabs, Mdlle. Venare, Sans Reddens, D'Le Dunville, Mary Lyons, Tom Costello, &c. Prices 6d. to £3 3s. Telephone 80,065. Open 7.30.

EMPIRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 10.15, revival of the Ballet ROUND THE TOWN, by Madame Katti Lanner and Mr. George Edwardes. Music by M. Leopold Wenzel. Costumes by Wilhelm. Also the Ballet LA FROLIQUE, music by Mr. Ernest Ford, at 7.45, supported by Signorinas Cornalba, Bice Forno, Mdlle. Venare, Sans Reddens, D'Le Dunville, Mary Lyons, Tom Costello, &c. Prices 6d. to £3 3s. Telephone 80,065. Open 7.30.

PALACE.
PROGRAMME, EVERY EVENING at 7.45. Carmencita, G. H. Chirgwin, Tom Fancourt, Borani Brothers, La Belle Rose, Chas. Eastwood, Neldone and Abbey, The Troubadours, Algernon Newarle, Willie and Charlie, Edwin Barwick, Edith Yorke, M. Richard and his Serpentine Dancing Dogs, May Evans, Five Mercers, Clara Wieland, and the New Series of Tableaux. Popular Prices.—Manager, Mr. Charles Morton.

THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.
THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHOW, and the FISHERIES EXHIBITION.
Wonderful sights. The Fisheries. The Colorado Gold Mine in operation. Entranced Subjects. The greatest sensation of the century. Always on view. See the awakening. 10.00 P.M. Early Varieties, 11 A.M. Great Central Stage Performances. The World's Great Show, 2 and 7. The Flying Girls; the Great Norrits, a Convicts Escape; Baume's and Annie Tuler's Great Dives, Boxing Kangaroo, Adeline, the graceful Gymnast, a Double Backward Somersault from the Roof, and hosts of Star Artists, Novelties and Attractions, &c. Professor Cross, 2 and 7. Ballad Concert, 8.50. Swimming, 3 and 10. Entranced Subjects, 2.15 to 10.30 P.M. Richards v. Collins Thurston v. Tabrez

THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING.

This morning the *Times* prints a very pertinent letter on the situation in Chitral, from Mr. George Curzon, who so lately visited the country. He sees that the chief factor in the present crisis is Umra Khan, the Pathan freebooter, whose object has always been to make himself a kingdom between Chitral and Peshawur, slicing as much as he might from the Ameer's dominions on the west and south-west, extending his suzerainty over the wild tribes who live in the scarce-explored country east and south-east of his proper territory of Bajaur. He has seized Dir already, and annexed a part of the Chitral country. There is little doubt that he was an accessory before the fact to the late Mehtar's murder; and we are entitled to suppose that he is now in Chitral for the purpose of enforcing feudal homage from the man he chooses to make Mehtar in Nizam-ul-Mulk's stead. Mr. Curzon says that the Indian Government has "blown hot and cold" with him. He does not seem to be aware that it blew so hot at one time as to present him with rifles, or at least to allow him to buy unlimited quantities in Peshawur. This has been stated in open print by no less an authority than Mr. Thorburn, and nobody has denied it. Indeed, the Indian Government seems only to have been aroused to Umra Khan's real intentions by his unwarrantable interference in Chitral, and its officers probably heard with some surprise Mr. Curzon's prophecy that before five years were over we would have to show him that he cannot be allowed to set up an independent and possibly hostile Power within our recognized sphere.

Still, well armed or not, Umra Khan will not be able to resist us for long. The redeeming fact of the present crisis is that it gives us an opportunity of revising our policy on two points. We may now abandon the plan which Lord Lawrence invented, of recognizing the *de facto* ruler of a native State, though he may have come to his power by murder, merely because he happens to be the man in possession, and without regard to his attitude towards ourselves. This policy, known as "keeping the ring," brought disastrous results in Afghanistan. Dost Mahommed wished us to recognize one of his sons as Ameer: we refused, bidding the competitors to fight it out among themselves, and finally throwing Shere Ali into the arms of Russia. In Chitral, Dr. Robertson was lately said to have recognized the murderer Amir-ul-Mulk, notoriously a creature of Umra Khan's. This report may be incorrect, of course. It is conceivable that he might have recognized Shere Afzul, whom we drove into exile a very short time ago, a man who is therefore hostile to ourselves. Or if Umra Khan had been able to carry out the devices and desires of his heart, in pursuance of this policy we should have recognized him, usurper as he was. Mr. Curzon says, "Instead "of jumping at the first pretender who manages to get "hold of Chitral fort, we must only recognize a man "who, like the late Mehtar, will loyally accept the British "suzerainty, and, as he did, will keep his hands free "from the squalid continuity of fratricidal crime."

Mr. Curzon also makes the timely and wise suggestion that here and now is our opportunity of revising the general policy, of which "keeping the ring" is but a particular expression: to wit, "the policy of drift." Already the Radical press protests against annexation, and the Indian Government, eager to fly from the very appearance of evil, has issued a proclamation saying that we will retire from Chitral as soon as our object of restoring order has been gained. Now nobody wants to annex Chitral, that is to say, to interfere with the personal liberty of its inhabitants or the domestic policy of its rulers. But we must control its foreign relations. The need for such control was shown at Hunza, where Colonel Durand came upon letters and presents from the Russian Asiatic Department in the Thum's treasure-house. We know that M. Shishkin's agents did not neglect the vastly more important strategic position of Chitral. Yet it was lately proposed to withdraw our political agent altogether from that country. This was frustrated by Mr. Curzon, who exposed the design, by the *Times*, and by ourselves; and an interesting correspondence on the subject was printed in our columns. As it is, we continued our officer at Chitral, but we kept his guard at Mastuj, sixty-six miles away. This gratuitous folly was paid by the lives of Captain Ross and his men. Now the Indian Government blandly proposes to hold a military promenade in Umra Khan's country, and then to abandon it. Yet, as Mr. Curzon shows, the distance from Peshawur to Chitral by the Gilgit route is nearly six hundred miles: by the Malakand-Dir route it is about a hundred and eighty. And Chitral, as we have often pointed out, is the key of all the roads from the Pamirs and from Badakshan and to Peshawur and Jellalabad. The Hunza-Nagar people and the Kanjutis know that they can only retain their independence by keeping the military road to Gilgit open and orderly. If we are to be at the expense of restoring peace in Chitral and Bajaur, it is not too much to expect that Umra Khan and the new Mehtar should hold their lands on a similar condition. Otherwise we may expect nothing but plots and counter-plots and a tangle of intrigue, for Umra Khan, if he be not thoroughly under our thumb, will be our frank enemy.

THE FAR EAST.*

Mr. Henry Norman must in the first place be complimented on having produced the most suggestive work that has yet appeared about the Far East. The reader will find in it abundant cause for the gravest reflection; and although many of us may not agree with all his conclusions, there can be no difference of opinion that the ambition and audacity of the Japanese have precipitated the natural course of events, and revealed the true significance of international rivalry in the Far East with the magic touch of Ithuriel's spear. The subject is too important and space too valuable to waste it in detailed praise of the varied contents of Mr. Norman's volume. His work is simply indispensable, and every one of his readers will agree that he has treated the subject-matter in an exceptionally attractive manner. He has taken into account every factor bearing on the question, and the picture he presents for the statesman is filled in to the last detail.

It requires a mental effort to ignore the exceedingly interesting chapters in which Mr. Norman describes the French position in Indo-China and that of this country in the same region. But France is not, and never will be, a greater Power in the Far East than the relative strength of her navy to ours makes her. She may have a part to play there or not in the future, but it will always be, until the maritime superiority of England has departed, a

* "The Peoples and Politics of the Far East, &c." By Henry Norman, author of "The Real Japan." With sixty illustrations and four maps. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1895.)

SILK AND STUFF.

Mr. F. J. Greenwell, who has been appointed county-court judge at Newcastle, is Recorder of Durham, but as the present Lord Chancellor has required county-court judges to resign their recorderships there will be a new vacancy created at Durham. Mr. Greenwell has for many years been a "local" at Newcastle, and has practised in the Palatinate Court at Durham; he was called in 1877 and is reputed to be very learned, and no doubt will make an excellent judge. Speaking generally, there are some strong objections to the appointment of local practitioners to be judges in the towns where they have practised. Their old clients come before them; they have personal friends, and may have enemies, in the particular place, and sometimes there is a touch of the familiarity which leads to proverbial results. In such circumstances it is often difficult even for a strong man to be quite impartial. It is for this reason that many judges of county courts prefer not to live on their circuit. It is said that several silks applied for the Newcastle judgeship. Recent appointments of this nature seem to show that county-court judgeships have ceased to be rewards for political services.

The most interesting provision of the Supreme Court (Officers) Bill, which Mr. Asquith has brought in, is that for the abolition of the office of Queen's Remembrancer, "which has become obsolete." With him disappears the last Revenue officer of the ancient Exchequer. He dates back at least to the year 1266. Originally there were two or even three "clerks of the remembrance" (Rememoratores), the King's, the Lord Treasurer's, and a mysterious person called the Remembrancer of First Fruits, their duty being to put the Lord Treasurer and the Barons of the Exchequer in remembrance of such things "as are to be called on and done for the King's benefit." In the exercise of its original jurisdiction as a Court of Revenue, the office acquired equitable powers by setting up the fiction that the party seeking relief was a debtor to the Crown, and was the less able to discharge his obligations thereto by reason of the grievance of which he complained. Thus in the course of time it accumulated great and multifarious powers and duties, including at one period that of determining all questions as to irregularities in proceedings and awarding costs subject to an appeal to the Exchequer Chamber. Till 1820 money and securities ordered to be brought into court were paid or transferred to the Remembrancer, but after that an accountant was appointed. In 1834 the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer ceased to exist, with several other offices, some very quaint, and their records and duties were entrusted to the King's Remembrancer. In 1842 the equity side of the Exchequer was made over to Chancery. In 1843 several other offices in the Queen's Remembrancer Department were abolished, the office was regulated and other officers appointed by the Treasury. Till 1859 the state of every public account was enrolled in this office; an Act of that year again, and finally, regulated the post. The great Judicature Act of 1873 attached it to the Central Office of the Supreme Court, of which it has since been known as the Queen's Remembrancer's Judgments and Acknowledgments Department.

The refusal of the Bishop of Llandaff to institute a clergyman presented to a living on the ground that he could not speak Welsh recalls a famous action, tried in 1888 before Baron Huddleston, without a jury, "in the nature of a *quare impedit*." The plaintiff was the Marquis of Abergavenny, the patron also in the present case, and the Bishop was the defendant. There the Bishop commissioned certain persons to hold an inquiry whether the parish of Goytre required a pastor who should know Welsh. They held the inquiry, but refused to permit the patron or the clergyman to be present or to be represented or to produce evidence; they duly reported to the Bishop, who refused to admit or institute the clergyman. A section in an Act of 1838 provides for the contingency which arose, and gives an appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury; and judgment was for the defendant. There was a similar case as early as Elizabeth's reign.

They may manage some things better in France, but dealing with witnesses at a trial is not one of them. A story comes from Paris that a judge, desiring to remove all temptation from a lady witness, directly she entered the box asked her what her age was. When she had answered he ordered the oath to be administered in the ordinary way. No doubt this was very *spiritual*, but if the question was irrelevant to the issue it does not appear why it should be put at all, and if it was relevant there seems to be no reason why it should not be proved in the ordinary way.

secondary part to Russia, or possibly to Japan. The destiny of Asia really lies between the two colossal Powers, England and Russia, while the decrepitude of China and the exuberant energy of Japan provide the material by which they will work out in some fashion a solution of problems that for the moment appear insoluble. In one passage Mr. Norman commits himself to what seems to us the hazardous statement that if Japan is reasonable in her present demands upon China she will become "the first Asiatic nation in the world, and the predominant Power of the Far East," and this utterance goes to the root of the whole question. Does any one who has studied the subject seriously believe that England and Russia will ever cede hegemony to Japan? England, it is true, has no consistent or worthy foreign policy, but she has a very good substitute in a national intensity of purpose that has triumphed over the difficulties of the task to be done in every quarter of the globe and the carping criticisms of the Little England party at home. It was bad or "no" policy that acquiesced in the triumph of the Boers; it is English courage and perseverance which, in despite of fortune, is making South Africa British. Russia, on the other hand, has a fixed policy, carried on with admirable stubbornness in the face of natural obstacles for generations. Can anything within the bounds of possibility that Japan may do arrest the slow but sure march of the Northern giant? Frenzied journalists at Tokio may alter the map of Asia to suit their pleasure, but better judgment is needed to arrive at any confident conclusion as to how events will turn out.

It seems to us that, for a sound judgment, the preliminary points to have decided are the real nature of Japan's triumph and the truth as to China's decrepitude and downfall. The triumph of Japan over China is complete, unchallengeable, and for many years unalterable; but does it mean very much? The blunders and inefficiency of the Chinese have never been surpassed. The Japanese, with modern weapons which they knew how to use, have conquered a foe with very inferior arms, which they showed themselves quite incapable of turning to any account. The Japanese success in this war furnishes no evidence whatever how a Japanese army or fleet would fare against an English or Russian opponent. The brilliant successes of Marshal Yamagata and Admiral Ito must not dazzle our intelligence when we come to discuss the most vital problems on which the progress of the whole world centres. Japan has accomplished a great deal, and if she only sought praise it might be awarded with no niggard hand; but when she claims precedence her claim has to be scrutinized with some approach to exactness. If England were by some aberration of intelligence to stand aside and acquiesce in the importance of Japan at her own estimate, Russia would be very far from committing the same mistake; and a writer in the Russian *Novoye Vremya* the other day very shrewdly declared that the country which shows the most correct appreciation of the present situation will derive the greatest advantage in the future. Now, it seems to us that without entering into any conjectures as to the relative quality of the Japanese army to European armies there is a very simple test to apply to the extreme pretensions of Japan, and by it may be judged the firmness of the foundation on which her new reputation as a fighting Power rests. Will any naval expert maintain, does any one, in short, believe, that the Japanese fleet would have any reasonable chance of victory in a contest with either the British squadron now in the China seas or with the Russian Pacific fleet, reinforced, as it will be in five weeks' time, by the Mediterranean squadron of that Power? We submit that there is no difference of opinion on this elementary point; yet the whole position and reputation of Japan are bound up in the fate of her navy. What military value, how many months of existence even, will be given to her seventy thousand troops on the mainland when the ridiculous pretensions of her spokesmen have found expression in a policy which must cause a collision with a stronger naval Power? There may be no doubt that, if all the other interested States stood aside, Japan might realize the summit of her ambition, and become the predominant naval Power from Port Arthur to the Philippines; but who can suppose that such will be the case? Are England and Russia such unwarlike States, do they show such little resentment to their enemies—there is not a month without our having an expedition or little war somewhere—that Japan can presume on their inaction, one or both of them, while she decides in her own way matters of the highest and most enduring importance? Effusions like that quoted by Mr. Norman of Count Okuma, ex-Foreign Minister, who declares that "the European Powers are already showing symptoms of decay, and the next century will see their constitutions shattered and their empires in ruins," may show that such is the general opinion in Japan, but if it be so it is well to remember that pride goes before a fall.

If there is reason to look closely into the extent of Japan's triumph, there is certainly not less cause to measure accurately the downfall of China. The inert and unready giant has gone down at a single blow before his agile and dexterous antagonist, but are there no signs of animation, is there no chance of revivifying that ponderous frame? If there is danger in the future for those who magnify excessively the triumph of Japan, the risk is as great for those who minimise the potentialities of not merely China's recovery, but even of her regeneration. China has been smashed for the moment, not because there was any deception as to the qualities of her people, or the extent of her resources, but because her new army, like her old, was beneath contempt; because neither with guns nor with rifles could her soldiers shoot straight, because the whole organization is miserable where it is not effete, and because corruption has everywhere sapped the sources of her strength. Yet even under these deplorable conditions it would be folly to ignore the sound foundation and the elements of reform and reconstruction. Mr. Norman makes it clearer than before that China's regeneration will not begin from within but from without. Her innate, inveterate, and perhaps ineradicable antipathy to foreigners will prevent any general or sincere adoption of European improvement, at the same time that her complete and unquestionable ineptitude to organize *unaided* an army and navy that shall make her secure against such insults and assaults as those she has lately experienced will render it indispensable for some one to do this necessary task for her. Even if China could pocket her pride and allow Japan to take her in leading strings, Russia, if not England, would not permit it. There remain only the two great rivals who cross each other's path from the Bosphorus to Pekin. The future lies between them alone, but they will not submit to the dictation or direction of Japan, and for the present their policy and action will be identical. When they part company it will not be through the threats or overreaching projects of the Japanese, but because their own operations clash in the process of stimulating the Chinese people and Government to the necessary amount of exertion.

Mr. B. T. Batsford has in preparation an important subscription work by Edwin L. Sachs and Ernest A. E. Woodrow, entitled "Modern Opera Houses and Theatres: Examples selected from Playhouses recently erected in Europe, with a short Descriptive Text and a Treatise on Theatre Planning and Construction, with Supplements on Stage Machinery, Theatre Fires, and Protective Legislation." It is to be in three volumes, profusely illustrated with plates and diagrams; the first of which will be ready during the summer, and the other two volumes at intervals of about six months each.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Another step has been taken towards clearing the way for the election of Mr. Peel's successor. The leader of the Opposition has formally notified the Government of his intention of retaining a free hand for himself and his colleagues in the next Parliament. If, urged on by their most headstrong followers, the Government nominate Mr. Gully or another, their nominee will be under no illusions as to his position and prospects. If his party achieves the improbable, not to say the impossible, and wins the next election, he will retain the chair. If they do not, he will be deposed in favour of Sir Matthew White Ridley. The Opposition have throughout behaved with admirable frankness and fairness. They were anxious to keep the question outside the sphere of party controversy, and gave substantial guarantees of their good faith. Left to themselves the Government would have accepted the overtures made to them. But they have ceased to lead, and allow themselves to be driven.

DIOGENES IN SEARCH OF A SPEAKER.

Mr. Livesey is a gentleman who can suppress strikes and carve up profits. His system of dividing the income of the South Metropolitan Gas Company between shareholders and employed came before the Labour Commission, and was received with dignified approval. A further stage was taken yesterday, when a clause was devised for the South Metropolitan Gas Bill enabling workmen to have a representative on the Board of Directors. The instruction was accepted with general jubilation, after Mr. Bryce had suggested a verbal alteration with the object of making the clause more elastic. We presume that elasticity does not in this case imply absolute indefiniteness. The House has done well anyhow in giving its moral support to Mr. Livesey. Profit-sharing will never act as a beal-all of labour disputes, since it is inapplicable to most trades. Within its limited influence, it is certainly to be encouraged, if only because it reduces the temptation of shirking.

We hope that casual utterances in an after-dinner speech are not to be regarded as in the nature of specific pledges. Otherwise we shall have the advocates of the Channel Tunnel claiming Lord Salisbury as a convert. For in his otherwise very happy speech at the banquet of the Institution of Civil Engineers, he let fall some rather ambiguous allusions. "The civil engineers," he said, "have laid a daring hand upon the Channel, and they have meditated piercing that soil and traversing that boundary which is our security against the assaults and jealousy of the world. Well, I frankly admit that I shall lose whatever good opinion the illustrious Duke (the Commander-in-Chief) has of me by the confession that I am not very much afraid of the Channel Tunnel, and that my impression is that the illustrious Duke would make very short work indeed of anybody who tried to use it against us." We are not "very much afraid" either, but we had rather the illustrious Duke had no opportunity of making short work of that kind. We are anxious for this island to remain in the happy position in which it has pleased Providence to place it.

On March 27, 1895, Professor Ramsay of a new element (Helium). We congratulate both. Helium has been expected for some time, and they have kept him a line in the spectrum (D 3), which, it is to be hoped, he may fill with dignity. Of his nature we are yet uninformed, but we trust he will show a little more sociability than his brother Argon, in whose company he was discovered. In the absence of details we might perhaps be allowed to offer a suggestion in the cause of science. Can this new gas be influenza (D_3)? The one has baffled the physician as the other has baffled the chemist. If this is so, then Argon in its turn may be the cause of the after effects. If this is so, the sooner the new element is isolated the better.

That little case of Meux *v.* Great Eastern Railway just decided is rather instructive. Lady Meux sent some servants to London at her charges. The company's servants upset the other servants' luggage in front of a train. This cost plaintiff £23, for which she sued. But the luggage had contained liveries and a lady's maid's skirt, which were plaintiff's property, and this proved fatal to her claim. For the company contended that they had accepted the luggage as being the property of the servants, and that plaintiff was an "undisclosed principal," and, as such, couldn't sue. The judge took this view, and further decided that the luggage was not lawfully on defendants' premises at all, inasmuch as it was there as the passengers', whereas the contents of it really belonged to their mistress. To be in a position to recover, Lady Meux ought to have come down to the ticket office herself, and taken the tickets for her servants with her own hand. This is, no doubt, worth knowing. Meantime there is judgment for the defendants, with costs.

THE VIOLETS.

At first I kissed the violets
Because they came from thee,
And, then, because no storm-wind frets
Where they were plucked for me;

But in a garden green and fair,
Beyond the bitter snow,
Where nightingales at eve repair,
To music they did grow.

But, though they breathe of sun and song,
And rivulets that dance
Adown enchanted slopes, where throng
Sweet ghosts of old romance;

Though fragrant with such dew as wets
The dales of Arcady,
At first I kissed the violets
Because they came from thee.

It is always well to be sure of your facts if you want to say something nasty. Yesterday, a Liverpool vicar found this out. On January 6 he delivered a sermon in which he called the Junior Reform Club a gambling hell, a drinking establishment, and a misconducted affair generally. At the assizes he pleaded that he did not say what was alleged, that a sermon is privileged, and that it was true any way. After which he apologised and withdrew his defence. There seems to be quite a run on this kind of thing just now. Only the day before a Southsea Baptist minister had to pay £75 damages to a publican for a speech at a public meeting, and the clergy and several other people at Penge are at present in urgent need of £180. They got the divisional magistrates to close a public-house, but on appeal the licence was granted by Sir Peter Edlin. This cost £220, and public opinion has so far only responded to the extent of £40. It would be cheaper to move elsewhere, or write an anonymous letter to some local paper, and leave it to take the risks.

Mr. Balfour's remarks to the Police Pensioners' Employment Association treated the force to its due quantity of praise. The British policeman must be regarded with admiration, tempered with the slightest suspicion of amusement. If he displays amazing denseness at a crisis, at least he discharges his ordinary duties conscientiously and in excellent temper. He is not above taking a tip, and he is rather given to disappearances down areas. But these failings are human. At least he does not shoot about as in Chicago or slap you in the face with his open hand as in Paris. The worst of it is, that at fifty years of age he becomes too stiff to pursue the "pincher," and therefore, has to be discharged on a pension sufficient to keep him from want but not in comfort. The difficulty of finding him employment increases yearly, and the association has no fewer than 700 ex-policemen on its books just now. They have the makings of caretakers, and possibly of undertakers, but their capacities are rather limited. The satisfaction of their modest ambition taxes the ingenuity, but at least Mr. Balfour has drawn attention to the existence of an association that has been created to help them.

The directors of the British East Africa Company have bowed to necessity with a reasonable amount of courtesy. At yesterday's meeting the speeches of Sir Arnold Kemball and Mr. George Mackenzie were dignified in tone, and if some of the directors talked about appealing to the British public against the Cabinet they confined themselves to verbal exercises. The larger offer of the Cabinet has been accepted, that is, for £250,000 in cash the company surrenders its charter and concession, and sells its property, assets, and rights in East Africa. Courtesy forbids the translation of this phrase into the legal slang of the street; and the point to notice rather is that of Mr. Mackenzie—that a conflict of administrations has been obviated. As was almost inevitable, the directors made excursions into comparatively ancient history with the object of showing that the advance on Uganda was forced on them by "political" considerations. The distinction is rather fine; and Sir Arnold Kemball provokes a smile by congratulating his audience and himself because their shares had not been made "the channel of phenomenal fluctuations in the market." The fluctuations would have been "phenomenal" indeed, because the tide would have been on the persistent ebb.

We gladly accept the assurance of the *Temps* that France has not sent large expeditions to the bend of the Niger; doubtless it will be confirmed by M. Hanotaux. Only if France did not send them, who did? If they sent themselves, we must request that they be taught somewhat firmly not to do it again. The *Temps* says that it "did not contest the right of the English Company to confide a mission to Captain Lugard." It did not. Neither do we contest the right of the *Temps* to fix the pay of its contributors. For Captain Lugard's expedition violated no French territory: Captain Decœur's and M. Bonnat's have violated ours. They are called exploring expeditions, but one does not explore foreign territory under arms without asking leave. The moral of it is, of course, that it is time the frontiers were drawn out behind Dahomey. But that does not exclude the other moral, that it is time we insisted that the irresponsible impertinences of the Franco-African officer should receive a lesson.

The Reichstag has elected a new President, which we suppose was the only thing it could do. But it must have felt rather foolish in doing it. A good deal less than half the members voted, and even these only elected a gentleman named Buol. He belongs to the Centre, as does the second Vice-President; the First is a Radical of the name of Schmidt. In fine, the Opposition parties are cheerfully acting as though they were the Government, to the amusement of everybody else. But Nemesis overtakes Buol in the high noon of his glory. Immediately there comes up the cruel question, Shall he call, according to custom, upon the Kaiser, or shall he not? If he does not he will be rude, and may be imprisoned; if he does it is the Kaiser who will probably be rude. Similarly in the House: if the momentary majority behave as such, the Reichstag will be dissolved, and where will be the majority then? If it does not, where is it now?

Our gifted contemporary the *Grashdanin* has hit on a brilliant scheme for the settlement of the Chino-Japanese difficulty. Great Britain and Russia, in its view, "must bring their joint influence to bear upon Japan and induce her to renounce the idea of any territorial acquisition upon the mainland of Asia." The best way to realize this consummation, thinks the *Grashdanin*, would be for China to cede to Russia certain territories in Mongolia required for the construction of the Siberian Railway. An even simpler measure would be that Russia should annex both China and Japan, thus automatically extinguishing the whole difficulty. In order to avoid customs rivalry in the South she might also take over Hong Kong. In return for the cession of Mongolian territory the *Grashdanin* offers substantial guarantees for the security of the Indian frontier, but it does not commit itself to their probable nature. As a matter of fact this country has generally found itself able to guarantee its own frontiers. On the other hand, if the *Grashdanin* will consider the question of warning the Japanese off Formosa we might be able to come to terms.

BUSINESS HOURS.

In the House. By an Observer.

One had the chance yesterday of watching the House of Commons doing its best to do business. There was not the slightest temptation to go astray from dry and hard facts, except that the bill of fare began with a gas bill, a bill dealing with Irish lighthouses, &c., and a bill intended for the better housing of Scotch farm servants. Even thus one could not help being struck how little was done, and how little likely it seemed to be any good when it was done; for very few of these Wednesday afternoon measures ever get through all their stages in a session. Mr. Mundella led off with a suggestion to enable profit-sharing employees of the South Metropolitan Gas Company to have a certain control in the management of the company's affairs. He is as glib as ever, though rather less talkative in public than he was before he retired from the Treasury bench to a back seat. This time he found every one in agreement with him, and therefore in only twenty minutes he carried his point. Now his successor in office came to the front. Seventy-six of the Irishmen (against 196 others, as it turned out) wanted a change in the constitution of the Irish Lights Board—a kind of Hibernian Trinity House. Mr. Bryce preferred that the whole matter should be referred to a Committee, instead of adopting the Irishmen's specific proposals to make the method of election more representative. It took him a good while to deliver this simple judgment, for he has a hard, halting trick of speech, and must needs argue up and down a subject. One would have thought ten minutes' talk enough to settle the question, for the issue was perfectly plain. But no: this one must needs say why he was going to vote as he was; another felt called on to differ from the last speaker; a third thought the House would like to know his views; and a fourth talked to prevent No. 5 from coming on. So they went on, dragging it out for three hours or thereabouts. Then there arose the warning form of Mr. Seymour Keay, once a very active volcano of small talk on abstruse subjects, and by no means extinct yet. As he drew out his notes and notebooks nearly every one fled, a few Scotchmen coming back at the end of Mr. Keay's half-hour. And the sitting drifted on to its close in the same leisurely style.

THE SPEAKER.

The imminent resignation of the present Speaker of the House of Commons brings vividly to mind the importance of that ancient office, and the strict formalities, imposing and traditional, that obtain in elections thereto. "Although," says Stubbs, "some such officer must have been necessary from the first, the position and title of Speaker becomes settled only in 1377. The silence of records cannot be held to prove that an organized assembly like that of the Commons could ever have dispensed with a recognized prolocutor or foreman. It can scarcely be doubted that Henry of Keighley, who in 1301 carried the petition of the Parliament of Lincoln to the King, was in some such position." However, the first Speaker holding the title was Sir Thomas Hungerford, in 1377, and from that date there has been no break in the line, though there have been, according to Sir Erskine May, three occasions on which the Commons have elected their Speaker without the Royal permission and the Royal approbation that follows election. These were occasions of necessity, the first being before the recognized return of Charles II., the second being before the Prince of Orange had been declared king, and the third during the mental incapacity of George III.

It is curious that though the House of Commons has always elected its own Speaker, yet up till the year 1554 he had always been elected from the knights of the shire; a fact the more noticeable when we recall the wealth and influence of the municipalities of the fifteenth century. It has been neither the custom nor the policy of the Crown to refuse its traditional approbation to the person whom the Commons had chosen to be the "mouth of the House," their "*parlour et procurator*." In the case of Sir Edward Seymour, in 1678, however, this was done; and in other cases the Crown has taken advantage of the purely formal protestation by the Speaker-elect of his inability to perform the duties of so arduous an office. "In the case of Sir John Cheyne, the Speaker elected in 1399, the excuse of ill-health was accepted by the King as valid; the clergy had, in fact, objected to the nomination."

"In 1413 William Stourton had to resign the Speakership after he had held it for a week, on plea of illness. . . .; in this case there was a political difficulty; the Speaker had acted without the authority of the House. In 1437 Sir John Tyrrell resigned on the same plea, after having been Speaker for two months." (Stubbs).

On the present occasion the resignation of the Speaker will take place during the session. In that event the House will proceed to the election of a new Speaker to preside over their proceedings. The usual method of such election under the special circumstances of the case appears to be as follows: a Minister of the Crown announces in the House of Commons that her Majesty "gives leave to the House to proceed forthwith to the choice of a new Speaker." After this formal permission to proceed, a county member who is not a Minister of the Crown, addressing the Clerk of the House of Commons, proposes some member present as Speaker, and moves that he "do take the chair of this House as Speaker."

This is usually seconded, in the event of there being no contest for the Speakership, by a borough or other member on the opposite side of the House. This practice was followed in 1852, 1859, and 1874. It is usual also, where there is no contest, for some person of importance to support the motion, and the member proposed is then called to the chair. The Speaker-elect, having thanked the House and submitted himself to it, is led by his proposer and seconder to the chair. If there be more than one candidate they both address the House, a debate follows, and the Speaker is chosen on a division. When the new Speaker has fittingly expressed himself and taken his seat, the mace is brought from under the table and laid upon it. Then follows a statement by the Minister of the Crown who gave the permission to elect, that "it is her Majesty's pleasure that the House should present their Speaker to-morrow" (at an hour stated) "in the House of Peers, for her Majesty's Royal approbation." The Commons then adjourn.

The next day, in answer to a summons from the Lords Commissioners, the new Speaker, with the Commons, attends the Lords and addresses the Lords Commissioners as follows: "That in obedience to her Majesty's commands, her Majesty's faithful Commons, in the exercise of their undoubted right and privilege, have proceeded to the election of a Speaker, and as the object of their choice he now presents himself at your bar, and submits himself with all humility to her Majesty's gracious approbation." The Lord Chancellor, in the course of his short reply, informs the new Speaker "that her Majesty most fully approves and confirms him as the Speaker." In 1789 George III. himself signified his approval in the House of Lords. This ends the ceremonial of election, for in the event of the vacancy having occurred in the session it is not felt necessary for the new Speaker to lay claim to the rights and privileges of the Commons, that having been already done by his immediate predecessor at the opening of the session. It is worthy of note that "when a vacancy occurs in the office of Speaker during a session, a special Commission is required to signify the Queen's approval." (Mr. Speaker Shaw Lefevre, 1839; Mr. Speaker Brand, 1872). (Erskine May).

Mr. Douglas Sladen, author of "The Japs at Home," whose account of his Canadian travels has just been published under the title "On the Cars and Off," is contributing to the April number of the *Windsor Magazine* a fully-illustrated article on "Strange Scenes in Japanese Streets." Another prominent article in this issue will be "Famous Swords of Famous Soldiers," being sketches and descriptions of the famous swords in the possession of the Duke of Cambridge, General Lord Roberts, Lord Methuen, Sir Archibald Alison, Sir Evelyn Wood, and others, reproduced by special permission of their owners.

Dr. Druitt, the greatest connoisseur that ever lived, says:—"Civilized man *must* drink, will drink, and *ought* to drink, but it should be *wine*." He recommends MAX GREGER'S Pure Hungarian Red Burgundy as being everything a good wine ought to be. Prices from 15s. per dozen.—MAX GREGER, Ltd., 45, St. Thomas-street, S.E.

CONCERNING GRAVEYARDS.

We have the best and the worst which are to be found anywhere. Of our country churchyards, which have had their elegiac poet supreme among his kind, there is no need to speak: they do not stand in need even of that elegiac poet. If I were an American newly come to England it is not to the great seats or even the old towns of the mother country that I should most wish to turn my steps; not to Chatsworth or Chester—though with Hawarden to follow—but to any one of the thousand or so genuine and typical country churchyards. Stoke Pogis, if you choose; but that is only a type of its kind, where the graves lie overshadowed by high, moss-covered walls and protecting elms, through which each evening the home-returning labourer passes, from wicket to wicket, with dull and heavy tread, and exhales his breath like incense into the blue evening air.

But after all, these graveste ads, which I admit are the best in their kind, belong to the *pagani*, the villagers, and to the past; and anthropologists declare that the worship of ancestors is a relic of barbarism. What are modern, what really strike the note of recent civilization, are the cemeteries attached to our great towns. Who ever willingly visits them?—those vast and sterile botanic gardens in which, by some strange mischance, the labels have grown up and not the flowers. Their hideous monuments and few faded wreaths cannot hide from the world that these graves are no more than great abandoned ash-heaps. What in reality strikes you with most amazement, with something like terror, when you go to these places is the thought that there are one or two persons, some lodge-keeper and sexton and his family, obliged by their profession to live all their lives long within sight of the white tombstones, those misshapen bones of mother earth. The more our towns grow and our country life shrinks, the more will the graveyards of old days give place to these waste fields of mortality, which have about them no touch of beauty except the borrowed poetry of their name, the "Cities of the Dead."

Here, then, we have at home the two extremities of the scale. Abroad you will find nothing at all comparable to the English country churchyard. The best that you can find will be in some Catholic countries of the hills—in the Tyrol, say—where wooden crosses climb one above another up the hillside, and over all a huge Calvary stands black against the sky. In Catholic countries of the plain, the churchyards are almost always cemeteries enclosed in four whitewashed walls, and would be as ugly almost as our great cemeteries if they were as big. They have, indeed, some added horrors of their own in the shape of their head "couronnes," which everybody has seen and shuddered at. But then it must be said they have almost always one redeeming feature in the great Calvary, which dominates all the other monuments, and gives them all a certain dignity.

A cemetery of another kind, and still a far better kind than ours, is the sort you may see in the most Lutheran of European lands—I mean in Denmark. At the back of Copenhagen, for instance, stands an immense gravestead, the Assistens Kirkegaard, and, to my thinking, it is almost the place best worth visiting in the town. The chief attraction of Copenhagen is that it hoids and, as it were, embodies the spirit of Hans Christian Andersen; and the Assistens Kirkegaard of Copenhagen does so in an intensified degree. This is how they treat their dead there. At first sight the cemetery looks like one of our suburbanest gardens on a great scale (only that perhaps it is rather too shady for that): here are no white tombstones, no mounds. Observing more closely you see that the whole is divided up into little garden plots, such as those which we assign to children. And these plots are indeed assigned to the "little ones," the *manes* of the dead. Each is enclosed by its own miniature box hedge, reaching about to the knee. It is perfectly cultivated, this pigmy garden, bearing a standard rose or two, some geraniums, stocks, peonies, or what not. It has one clear space among its flowers, and, what seems at first sight strangest of all, a bench. For, as the bench is cut off by the hedge from the main alleys, your first supposition must be that it is meant for the owner of the grave himself. And certainly it is pleasant to think of those homely ghosts sitting about of nights within hail of one another, looking over the homely city, sighting the Round Tower pale and black in the moonlight, sniffing the faint and familiar smell of tar and brine from the dockyards, and, when the nights are foggy, hearing the mournful voice of the sirens as ships pass up and down the Sound. You find, however, that these benches are not for the dead alone. Kind-looking old men and women may be seen sunning themselves upon them or resting from their dutiful labours in the garden plot. There is, be it said, a flat stone somewhere in the enclose, but hidden from any but a near view. It records the name of the dead, no more; the piety of the survivors expresses itself otherwise than in lapidary extravagances. One old man I saw at work regraving this stone; an old woman was weeding and pruning among her flowers. Many more only resting, and even smoking, on their benches. What a contrast these to the mournful, listless groups who hover about our English cemeteries! You can tell that they come there only once a year, and then upon a perfunctory duty.

And the graveyard which remains in my memory very individually is that of a little town in the same region of Europe, but in Germany. Stolpe the town is named; it lies upon the Baltic coast of Germany—or, to speak by the card, just off the coast, for herein lies its misfortune, that, like our Winchelsea and Sandwich, it has been abandoned by the sea and fallen into decay. Stolpe was once a considerable place and a Hanse town; now few people with us, I suppose, know even its name. It is still half-girt by its wall. On the open side it is much like some small English market town, with market-place, small, swift-flowing river, and single wooden bridge. The only thing which is quiet about Stolpe is its cemetery, which stands upon a hill above the city. When you explore it you find that the graveste ad is even larger than you supposed. For fir woods have grown up since the graves of Stolpe first began to be dug; and wandering away from the present cemetery, which has no defined boundary, you pass under the shade of these woods, and find that the soil beneath your feet is all broken up into mounds. You know not where the graves will cease. Not less but more sacred seems Nature, who, unconfined by walls, and not vexed by consecrations and fribble-frabble, watches over so many forgotten tombs. To be carried out from that shrunken town to this vast graveyard, that, indeed, is to "pass over to the majority." So great a crowd! As Dante says, "I could never have believed that Death had *unmade* so many."

"THE BODLEY HEAD."

To the Editor *of the* Pall Mall Gazette.

Sir,—I observe in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of yesterday an offensive allusion to my private address. It is true that I live in The Albany, but that concerns only my friends, of whom your paragraphist is certainly not one; although we have probably encountered one another before in the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

The general public is only concerned to know that the books I publish are issued from my office, of which the address is "The Bodley Head," Vigo-street, and which is a "shop" in precisely the same sense as is No. 18, Charing Cross-road, the "office" of the *Pall Mall Gazette*.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 27. John Lane.

[Mr. Lane mistakes us. Our point was, not that he does or does not live in The Albany or that "The Bodley Head" is or is not a shop, but that it is a conservatory within the meaning of the definition "a green house for exotics, often attached to a dwelling as an ornament."—Ed. *P.M.G.*]

A new series of original three-and-sixpenny novels, to be called "The St. Dunstan's Library," is about to be commenced by Messrs. Sampson Low. The first three volumes will be "The Love Affairs of an Old Maid," by Lilian Bell; "The Little Sister to the Wilderness," by Lilian Bell; and "Corona of the Nantahalas," a romance, by Louis Pendleton.

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(*Publishers' Announcements continued on Page 4.*)

REVIEWS.

MOSTLY FICTION.*

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND is not familiar territory, and the Magdalen Islands, eighty miles to the north, are probably unknown even in name except to a few specialists and perhaps a Board-school geography class. Consequently, it is delightful to find so graphic a picture of them in Mr. Dougall's "Mermaid," with their long stretches of sand-dune, their wind-swept grass, and their winter girdle of ice. But it is not only the local colouring which makes the book so charming. The young doctor's exciting journey along the dunes to Cloud Island, his four months' residence in the diphtheria-stricken spot, and his gradual identification of its philanthropic lady, cursed with a vile sea-captain of a husband, whose return is constantly dreaded, with the mermaid of Prince Edward's, sustain the interest throughout. The mermaid is no metaphor; she really swims and ends in a fish-like figure. Of course she is not a genuine fabulous monster; but it would be unfair to any intending reader to let out the secret.

Any one who is interested in pictures of racial antipathy in the Southern States will find them in "The Sons of Ham." They are passably rendered, which is also true of the sketches of negro life at less exciting times. But a reader may take it from us that it would be very nice if we were there to tell him what to skip. When Colonel Stanford begins to talk on the advisability of negro emigration to Liberia or the Congo he is preaching what the author wants preached, but he is dull, decidedly dull. Once some one reminds him that "this is a ball," and sometimes the author remembers "this is a novel." Then he brings on a young man with "strange, haunting eyes," whose chief appropriateness is that he is wounded by the negroes. There are some other men, who shoot or get shot, and some women, who marry them or don't.

Mr. Trowbridge knows his West Indies and his Kipling. Hence "The Children of Men." "There was a private secretary once who used to wash her Excellency's poodle, but that has nothing to do with Mr. A. Glasson Amherst." "Of course Mrs. Brown Lennox was one of the rival generals. Was there ever anything in which Mrs. Brown Lennox did not play a leading part?" Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Of course Mr. Trowbridge is only a Kiplingaster; but there are good and bad minor Kiplings, and he is a good one.

There is no special reason why "Wilton, Q.C." should be a novel, except to allow Mrs. Tweedie to give her information chattily. Also she wanted to work in a scene based on the great Pearl case, in which she contrives a really smart complication of her characters. The book is intended to sketch country-house life in the Highlands, and does it as fully and breezily as Mrs. Tweedie has already sketched Norway and Iceland.

* "The Mermaid: a Love Tale." By L. Dougall. (Richard Bentley and Son.)
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"Wilton, Q.C.; or, Life in a Highland Shooting Box." By Mrs. Alec Tweedie (*née* Harley). (Horace Cox.)

THE ROYAL BRITISH ARTISTS.

Not excepting the Academy, Royal Societies of painters usually plaster their walls with every kind of art good or bad, but none of them has yet achieved a more incongruous mixture than the present collection at Suffolk-street. No society seems so wholly without choice, tendency, or critical faculty as the Royal British Artists. They manifest the passionate impartiality in pictures that we smile at in a child of four. They discriminate neither between different kinds of art nor even between the different extremes of competency and incompetency in workmanship. No art is too cheap in idea or too ridiculous in workmanship to be unwelcome in their galleries. Let it be small and silly or large and shoddy, a bad picture meets with the same respect as those few decent things which artists unaccountably continue to send to the exhibitions of this too hospitable society. One or two seriously studied canvases hang here beside belated specimens of the trade pictures, which used to be sold in pairs in the City and by the dozen in the colonies. Subject may not mean much, but, even from a story-telling point of view, the subjects of these pictures are worn threadbare, while the painting never was anything but a rule of thumb mechanism. Here we have clean, pink peasants, whose teeth may be counted; ruddy, booted fishermen tossing china babies; landscapes with Scotch spates, English cornfields, and mechanical trees brushed with a receipt applicable to foliage at any hour and at any distance. The two small rooms furthest from the entrance, especially that on the left hand, contain the choicest samples of old pickled British industry. If there is any style at all in these things it is a mannerism, never robust, that has now been dying of imitation for the last fifty years or more. But the Royal Society of British Artists is less conservative than some other Royal bodies; any way it takes a dose of modernity, as the Freethinker went to mass, in case there might be a mistake somewhere. Such hedgers are easily satisfied; and, failing the young man from the New English Art Club, the British Artists open the door to any old fraud who skips in with a false nose to parody the New English sky-blue gaiety of manner. The commercial niggler now finds himself cheek-by-jowl with a new trickster of the trade, who goes in for bold, bad values, a foreign "personality," blue instead of brown paint, quaint drawing, and no modelling. Thus Suffolk-street has become an arena where the new potboiler wrestles with the old, while the judicious look on magnanimously indifferent to the chances of victory.

At this exhibition one soon ceases to hope for beauty, and one takes refuge in anything that shows an honest care for some worthy quality, that gives evidence of a year or two of sane study. After an hour or so in the company of the old and new potboiler, one is ready to rush into the arms of such persons as Mr. H. T. Schäfer, Mr. H. M. Livens, Mr. Robert Christie, Mr. S. M. Laurence, Mr. Julius Olsson, Mr. F. A. Bridgman, and even Mr. Wyke Bayliss himself. There may be a want of certainty in form and a feebleness of handling about Mr. Schäfer's "Portrait Study" (20) of a young lady, but his truly artistic intention triumphs over his somewhat limp execution, and makes itself felt in the charm of the sitter's individuality and in the choice scheme of tranquil and appropriate colouring which sets off this pleasing figure. Mr. Robert Christie, with his large, ugly, nude "Swan Song" (107), stops one, in the midst of general flabbiness, for the sake of a little misplaced vigour of brushing; Mr. S. M. Laurence recalls a picture by Alexander Harrisson with his effective, but not very natural, coast marine, "The Setting Sun" (126); and in these surroundings Mr. Bridgman's "Morning Bath on the Coast of Algeria" (159), overwrought as it is, and lustreless in colour, appears the work of quite a great man. Perhaps the most painter-like performance in the place is an impressionistically conceived picture, "Making Nets" (2), by Miss Isa Rae. The figures, a mother and child, are well placed on the canvas, effectively balanced by spaciousness and loose handling, while they are drawn with a telling precision which does not exclude a pleasing variety in firmness of touch. Among other notable work one remarks a pastel of decidedly superial quality (466) by Mr. H. H. Robinson; some Millet-Clausen agricultural pictures, able in technique and pleasant in colour, by Mr. A. Briscoe; a study of waves, "Grey Sea" (122), by Mr. Olsson; a rich and sober flower picture (111), strongly and naturally handled upon a rough canvas by Mr. Alfred Thornton, and some fair pictures by Messrs. F. Dean, Bertram Priestman, J. Thomson, H. Hansen, J. N. Barlow, C. H. Eastlake, and L. T. Ashwell.

R. A. M. S.

TO READERS ABSENT FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY RESIDENTS.

Readers temporarily absent from town, or country residents, may have the SPECIAL EDITION of the PALL MALL GAZETTE, containing the LATEST NEWS, sent to ANY ADDRESS within the UNITED KINGDOM, for delivery by the first post on the following morning, at the rate of NINEPENCE PER WEEK or ONE SHILLING PER WEEK to ANY ADDRESS upon the CONTINENT.

THE WARES OF AUTOLYCUS.

THE WOMAN WHO DIDN'T.

It is very hard lines, thought poor Smith, when one has only just succeeded in grasping the "Modern Woman" and the "New Woman"—only just learnt to know them at sight and apart—to have a new kind, a "A Woman Who Did," suddenly sprung upon one. To have to begin all over again—reclassify them, find a place for, and learn up a new species, and revise all one's previous knowledge so laboriously acquired, is, to say the least, discouraging. He had taken up one paper after another at his club, and found on every other page some allusion to the "Woman Who Did." "Hang 'The Woman who Did!'" he said at last. "What did she do, anyhow?" And he put aside the papers and sat gloomily pondering: how extremely disheartening it was. He had been doing his very best to keep pace with the times—especially with Woman. He had thoroughly mastered all her new developments, and thought he knew all about her, and might safely pause for a little, take it easy, and look about him. And now he suddenly found he must bestir himself again and hurry on, or he would be left behind. It was hard, very hard. He almost made up his mind that he would give up keeping pace with the times, and would stay behind. "Hang 'The Woman who Did!'" he said again, this time quite savagely. "Let her go and do it again. It is no concern of mine."

But he could not get rid of her. He was working for an examination, and somehow he got it into his head that they would be sure to set a paper on the "Woman Who Did," and that he would certainly be plucked, as he knew nothing about her—not even what she did. He sat up at night, burning the midnight oil, with his poor hot head wrapped in wet bandages, turning over volume after volume in the hope of finding something about her. But though he looked through every work he could think of, classical, scientific, and mathematical, not a word about her could he find. Just as he was beginning to feel delirious his door opened, and a woman glided in. He looked up eagerly, half hoping it might be the Woman who Did. But he was disappointed. In the long, flowing black robe with its sinuous folds, the fuzzy hair that almost concealed the small impish face, and the soft, languorous eyes, he recognized at once the "Modern Woman." But, never mind, he thought, she may be able to tell me something about the "Woman who Did." But she did not give him a chance of getting a word in edgewise. She looked at him from beneath her heavy lids and began at once in a low thrilling voice.

"The point about me is that I am so super-exquisitely subtle that nobody can possibly understand me. I cannot even understand myself. I am a riddle—a cruel enigma—a fleeting, ethereal, feminine essence, full of delirious sensations and tumultuous squirmings. I am a creature of impulse, of varying moods, of whimsical nonentities—but I am alive!—yes, I live!—I am full of pale, intoxicating, lurid life. Sometimes I am deeply, deadly, soulfully earnest, full of the infinite pathos of exquisite femininity, at other times I am frivolous, nonchalant, gay, irresponsibly and sweetly skittish; at other times fiendish, diabolical, snake-like, and full of poisonous passion. You never know where you have me, nor what I shall be next." At this point her low thrilling tones turned to an incisive hiss, that sounded as if she wanted to bite something. Smith edged away, thinking she might possibly want to bite him. She looked at him with sudden large-eyed compassion, and her voice became lucid and seductive. "Don't try to understand me," she said. "You cannot. It will only make your poor stupid old head ache. I am transcendentally incomprehensible, and man is too utterly gross and material to come within a thousand miles of grasping my evanescent nothingness. I toy with him, as an iridescent dragon-fly toys with a rhinoceros. I suck his blood like a vampire"—here she looked at Smith expressively out of the corner of one eye—"and then vanish into infinite space." And before he could stop her to ask about the Woman who Did, she had glided through the door and had vanished into infinite space.

"Give us a light, old fellow!" said a cheerful voice at his elbow, and looking up he saw the New Woman smiling at him in a friendly manner, and holding out a cigarette. He was pleased to see her, and thought that now perhaps he should get the information he wanted. He felt more at his ease with her than with the Modern Woman, and was not so much afraid of her biting. She was dressed in a smart knickerbocker suit of tweed. Her legs were clad in cloth gaiters and her feet were shod with neat patent leather boots. On her head was a jaunty little felt hat, and she wore a spotlessly white collar and cuffs and an important-looking little tie. She had a fresh, healthy complexion, and Smith noticed, as he lit her cigarette, that the hand that emerged from the spotless cuff was white and shapely, and adorned with a ring or two. She leaned one arm over her bicycle (she had apparently come in on it and dismounted), drew a puff from her cigarette, and blew a ring, looked at him with a frank twinkle in her eye, and said, "Look here, old chappie. You've had your day. It's our turn now, and we mean to have our fling. We're tired of staying at home and minding the baby. We're on for a lark, and mean to enjoy ourselves. Besides, there's no baby to mind. So it's all right." She paused, and Smith thought, "Now is my chance." "Can you tell me anything about the Woman who Did?" he began feverishly. "The Woman who Did!" she interrupted. "Why, there she is coming in at the other door." And before Smith could stop her she flung her leg over her bicycle, and was wheeling away, whistling "I dunno where we are" like a bird.

He turned eagerly towards the other door, and saw coming in at it a middle-aged woman of somewhat fierce aspect. She wore a plain, straight jacket, a short, skimpy skirt, large hygienic boots, a patent ventilated hat of the mushroom shape, and Jaeger gloves. She had a pair of spectacles on her nose, and her hair was drawn tightly away from her face and finished off with a severely simple knob at the back. Her person was entirely devoid of frivolous ornament. She carried a bundle of pamphlets under one arm, and an umbrella under the other. "*I* am the Woman who Did," she announced with an acrid smile. "You are not! you are not!" shrieked Smith. "I know you! I have seen you before! You are the Woman with a Cause! Get out of my sight!" "It's the same thing," she snapped. "It is not necessary to have the same cause, nor even to affect the same style of dress. But we undoubtedly belong to the same sisterhood, and are all equally ready to do or die for our cause," and she brandished her umbrella menacingly in the air. "If you, O effeminate youth," she went on, "will give what is by courtesy called your mind" (Smith felt himself wither) "to the subject for an hour or two, I will endeavour to explain——" "Never! Never!" shrieked Smith, for he was by this time quite delirious. In a frenzy of terror he began picking up his books and flinging them at her, and then with a yell fled from the room, and straight into the arms of the Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith, who was tearing wildly along the street, suffering from acute unorthodoxy, and one shuddering blush at the horrible indecency of having been born. Smith sank cowering on to the pavement. He felt her hanging him on the head with burning Bibles and then he became unconscious.

When he recovered consciousness he was in bed. Some one with nice cool hands was shaking up his pillows and giving him something refreshing to drink. "What is the matter?" he said, in a feeble voice. "You have been very ill," somebody answered. "But you are much better, and will soon be quite well again." Then he remembered what had happened. He looked up nervously to see if by any chance it was the Woman who Did, or the Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith, who had spoken, and sank back into his pillows with a sigh of relief when he saw that it was only an ordinary woman, such as he was accustomed to. She was dressed in an ordinary way, and had a pleasant, familiar, ordinary face, and kind, ordinary eyes. He watched her as she moved quietly about the room. She put a bowl of flowers on the table beside his bed. Then she warmed something in a saucepan on the fire. Then he called her to his bedside. "Are you a 'Modern Woman'?" he asked. She laughed and said "No." "Nor a 'New Woman'? Nor a 'Woman who Did'? What are you then?" "I am only an Ordinary Woman," she said, smiling. "Not notorious?" he asked anxiously." "No—not even notorious," she answered. "Are there many of you?" Smith asked after a pause. "Hundreds and thousands," she answered. "Thank Heaven!" he said—and fell asleep holding her tightly by the hand.

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(Continued from Page 3.)

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CITY NOTES.

THE SHROPSHIRE RAILWAY PROSPECTUS.

We have pointed out clearly the fact that there is a receiver in connection with the Shropshire Railways Company, and that the company is in financial difficulties, and we have also shown that there is no mention of this or anything indicating it in the prospectus which is now being advertised, and by which it is sought to obtain the money of the public. Our disclosure, which may be verified by any one who cares to inquire of the receiver himself, Mr. Richard Rabbidge, F.C.A., 32, Poultry, E.C., has been received in dogged silence by those interested in the attempted issue, by the directors, by the bankers, and by the auditor. We can understand to some extent the silence of the Whadcoats, who are interested in the issue. They, perhaps, can afford to be hippopotamus-hided We can understand less the silence of the directors, who appear to be men of some standing. Surely such gentlemen as Mr. James Irvine, a director of Eley Brothers, Mr. W. Greer Barcroft, of Wrexham, Mr. Edward B. Haselden, of Beckenham, and Mr. George Bush, who is a director of the Devon and Somerset Railway—surely such gentlemen as these are not willing to allow their names to be advertised with a prospectus which is grossly misleading, a prospectus which conceals the fact that the company to which debenture subscriptions are sought is in the hands of a receiver. Still less can we understand the attitude of the receiver, who in silence allows his name to appear on the prospectus merely as auditor of the company. The public attaches some importance to these letters, F.C.A., denoting that Mr. Richard Rabbidge is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and we consider that such a case as the present is one of those which have recently come so much to shake the confidence of shareholders in the honourable profession of accountancy. Perhaps least of all can we understand the appearance of the name of such an institution as the Capital and Counties Bank upon the prospectus after the disclosure we have made. We are well aware that a bank cannot undertake a searching inquiry into the circumstances of every company for which it consents to receive public subscriptions, and we know that as a matter of fact the banks consider themselves far less responsible for the prospectuses to which they lend their names than the general public regard them. But this case is glaring, and we are astonished that the Capital and Counties Bank should consent to continue to receive subscriptions and allow its name to appear on such a prospectus.

TO-DAY'S NEW ISSUE.

There is a rival indoor-skating prospectus to-day—a rival to the Niagara prospectus already on the market. This company is the National Skating Palace (Limited), of Heagler's Circus, Argyll-street, and the directors invite subscriptions for 5,000 original £1 shares at a premium of 5s. per share. The total capital is £50,000, a large portion of which, the prospectus says, is held by the directors and their friends. The contracts for carrying out the installation have now been completed, and the work is to be commenced forthwith. The system used by the company is the Tyler and Ellis improved system.

GWELO.

By the British South Africa Company is issued an extract from the report of the mining commissioner of Buluwayo, reflecting on the value of the property of the Gwelo (Mntabeleland) Exploration and Development Company, Limited. By the company itself is issued a counterblast saying that the statement is utterly untrue and unfair, and that the directors are satisfied that the company owns a very important and valuable property. These statements and counter-statements apart, we may say that we are not enamoured of Gwelo, although we know little about it. There has been much effort to tempt the press with advertisements to be inserted as articles, or in other ways, for our liking. To this temptation certain organs of the press, as readers with half an eye must have discovered, have unfortunately succumbed, with the result that we have heard more about Gwelo than we otherwise should.

UNION STEAMSHIP COMPETITION, NO DIVIDEND, AND DEBENTURES.

In the report of the Union Steamship Company it is shown that the anticipations of better trade referred to at the last general meeting have been so far realized that the company's gross earnings in 1894 have been larger than in 1893, but this has been accompanied by keen and costly competition which has at last led to arrangements between competing lines, the benefits of which are only now commencing to be felt. The prospects of trade in the current year, it is stated, are certainly as good as in the year 1894, and, owing to the arrangements to avert competition, more profitable results may be expected. Although a profit on the underwriting account has been made the directors are not prepared to recommend the payment of a dividend or bonus for 1894, but the insurance fund has been increased by £11,905. The issue of the four per cent debenture stock, already authorized, has been effected, and a large number of the preference debentures have been converted into debenture stock, which is now at a premium in the market. Papers accompanying the report show that it is intended to ask the shareholders for authority to extend the amount to £500,000 whenever the Board find it desirable to do so.

ARGENTINE GOLD PREMIUM.—The premium on gold at Buenos Ayres has risen 3.20 p.c. to 250.40 p.c.

The final batch of letters of allotment in the Consolidated Murchison Gold mines (Limited) has been posted.

The shares of Lewis and Burrows' Drug Stores, Limited, having been over-subscribed, letters of regret are being posted. The first batch of allotment letters have been sent out, and a further batch will be posted to-day.

The revenue statement of the Pennsylvania Railroad to February, during the quarter and the same month last year, shows: For the lines east of Pittsburg and Erie, gross increase, 417,400 dols.; net increase, 97,000 dols.; for nine months, 935,755 dols.; net increase, 23,181 dols. and 250,072 dols. For the lines west of Pittsburg and Erie, gross increase, 305,876 dols. and 481,642 dols.; net increase, 253,518 dols. and 503,795 dols. For the entire system, net increase, 276,699 dols. and 893,867 dols.

Sir C. Rivers Wilson's weighty name is being mentioned in connection with the Grand Trunk chairmanship held by Sir Henry Tyler. A leeler in the *Times* to-day which says that "if his services could be secured, he would be an admirable chairman for the Grank Trunk. He has only just brought to an end his successful labours in connection with the Central Pacific, and may not be disposed to undertake another task of a similar kind, but he is the very person that is wanted, and the shareholders' committee might do worse than try and induce him to come to their aid."

For Friday, there will be an unusually large batch of small metropolitan brick and mortar investments on offer at Tokenhouse Yard to-morrow. In the country business premises will be submitted at Derby, Cambridge, Wallingford, and Yeovil, residential property at Kidlington, and building-land at Malvern. Close on twenty lots of small investments changed hands at fairly good prices at the City Mart yesterday. But a charge-West-end property there was the same indifferent demand that has characterized the majority of the public attempts to dispose of real estate in the fashionable district since the beginning of the year.

TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

To-day's announcements of traffic receipts are as follow. In the cases where full particulars have been received the week's receipts and the aggregate for the current half-year are compared with the corresponding period of 1894:—

	Last Week.	Inc. or Dec.	Aggregate.	Inc. or Dec.
North Western	£276,000	—£7,000	£2,260,000	—£14,000
[illegible]	130,440	—15,570	1,137,560	—143,260
[illegible] Northern	73,000	—2,000	930,007	—3,569
[illegible] South Western	69,268	—10,416	653,854	—9,037
[illegible]dendoan	62,315	—2,489	463,830	—22,719
[illegible] North	62,000	—1,000	471,426	—15,961
[illegible]asgow and South Western	25,701	—6,55	180,189	—24,010
[illegible]ilway	25,000	—907	420,510	—10,264
[illegible]ilway	23,000	+287	260,110	—1,264
North London	8,241	+39	101,898	—7,13
Lancashire & Yorkshire	226,000	—14,000	2,653,716	—43,200
[illegible]ilway, Kalka	Rs.36,300	—10,00	3,14,100	—3,13,0

* South Yorks Canals included last year, for week, £203; aggregate, £2,231.

Railways.—Mexican National, 8,077 dols. *decrease.*

The following are the latest rates of exchange quoted at the principal foreign centres on London:—

Paris, short ... 25.27½	Athens, sight ... 47.00	St. Petersb'g, mest 23.05	Bombay trans 1/1½
Do. cheques 25.28¾	Brussels, cheq. 25.23¾	Vienna, sight ... 12.25	Calcutta trans 1/1½
Berlin, 3 mos. 20.38	Constople, mon 11.65	Hamburg, sight ... 20.45¾	Hong Kong trans 2/0⅝
Do. 8 days 20.44	Frankfort, sight 20.49	Buenos Ayres, p.c. 250.40	Do. 4 mo. 2/1⅝
Do. sight... 20.44½	Hamburg, 3 mo. 20.45½	Rio Janeiro, sight 27½	Shanghai trans 2/2⅛
Amsterdam 12.1½	Lisbon, sight ... 41.25	Valparaiso 30 days 16⅝ d.	Do. 4 mo. 2/3⅛
Do. sight 12.1½	Madrid, sight ... 41.25	New York, 60 d. 4.86	Singapore 4 mos. 2/1⅜
Antwerp, short 25 18.32	Rome, sight ... 28.56	Do. 4 mos. 4.85½	Penang 4 mos. 2/3½
		Yokohama 4 mo. 2/1½	

MONEY AND STOCKS.

BANK RATE UNCHANGED.—FALL IN SPANISH.—READING RUMOURS.—MINES WEAKER.

No change was made to-day in the Bank rate, which has stood at 2 per cent, since February 22 last year. There has been an active demand for money, chiefly in connection with the Stock Exchange payments and the best rate for call loans has been 1½ per cent. but the stringency is, scarcely so much felt as was expected. Discount rates are easy on the prospect of cheap money when the Government dividends are released.

The Stock Exchange has been busily engaged to-day making the payments for the past account, although the tightness of the Money Market some members have experienced difficulty in getting the accommodation they require for this purpose. The markets are consequently inactive, and present a rather heavy appearance. Gilt-edged securities and Colonial loans, however, are firm, but Rupee paper has slipped back a little on the weakness of silver. In the Foreign departments Argentines are weak on a rise of three points in the gold premium, which has been wonderfully steady recently. Spanish has fallen about a point on the Cuban trouble and political uneasiness in Madrid. American Railroads opened lower in response to the weakness displayed by Wall-street yesterday, but the tone is firmer than might have been expected. The reaction in Readings is due to heavy assessment rumours. The Mining market is again rather weak, and Charterеds, Bechs, Consolidated Deferred, De Beers, and Shebas are all lower, but Loundonderry, Koffyfonteins, and some others are strong.

Yield p.c.		M'vent to-day.	Latest Prices.
£ s.	BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
2 9	Canada (2½) May.	104⅝	⅝
2 9	Do. Account	104⅝	⅝
2 9	Do. Sept. Quarts.	104⅝	⅝
2 9	Local Loans Stock	101⅝	8/4
2 17	India 3½ per Cents.	113⅝	⅝
2 17	Do. 3 p.c. Rupee ...	103⅛	⅛
3 0	Do. 3½ per Cnt. Ks.	113⅝	⅝
3 12	Do. Sterling Bds. Ks.	100⅝	⅝
2 12	Mt. Bd. Wks. 3 p.c.	111	½
2 10	Do. 3½ p.c.	103⅝	⅝
2 15	Birmg'h m 3½ p.c.	120	...
2 15	Liverpool 3½ p.c.	120½	6/6
	COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
3 4	Can'da 3½ p.c. Reg	107	½
3 0	Do. 3 p.c. Reg. ...	98	⅝
3 2	Cape 3½ p.c. Cn.	111½	⅛
3 3	Natal 3½ p.c. Ins.	104½	8/4
3 11	N.S.W. 4 p.c. 1935	110⅝	⅛
3 10	Do. 3½ p.c. 1909 ...	102	⅛
3 15	N.Z. 4½ p.c. Cn.	119	⅛
3 11	Qnsl'nd 4½ p.c. In	110	⅛
3 10	S. Austa. 4 p.c. Reg.	107⅝	⅝
3 6	Do. 3½ p.c. In ...	103⅝	⅜
3 16	Victoria 4 p.c. 1885	108⅛	⅛
3 12	Do. 3½ p.c.	98½	⅝
	BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
3 10	Brighton Ord.	175	3
4 13	Do. Def.	160½	½
3 9	Caledonian	123½	30½ xd
4 0	Do. Deferred	84½	xxd
nil.	Chatham Ord.	16½	½
2 16	Do. Pref.	120½	¼
nil.	Do. 1st Pref.	60	...
3 17	East London	62	¼
2 6	Great Eastern	55½	⅝
3 11	G. Nth. Ord. Pref.	116½	14½
2 2	Do. Ord. Def.	41	6
3 3	Do. A	71	6
3 9	Great Western ...	152½	¼
nil.	Hull & Barnsley	30¾	1½
3 10	Lanc. and York.	166	16
3 10	Met. Consolidated	76½	½
nil.	Met. District	26½	9
3 2	North Eastern ...	158	½
3 17	North Brit. Pref.	71	½
4 15	Do. Def	36½	¼
4 12	North Stafford ...	142	½
3 7	North Stafford ...	74½	½
3 7	South Eastern ...	76½	¼
1 19	Shefield	90	2
nil.	Do. A	20½	½
3 9	South Eastern ...	122	½
3 9	Do. Deferred ...	84	¼
3 2	North Western ...	170½	½
3 2	Do. Deferred ...	169½	9/2
	FOREIGN STOCKS.		
6 2	Argentine, o.c. 1886	45	⅛
9 12	Do. Funding	7½	⅛
...	Do. Cedulas A	45	...
...	Do. B	45	...
6 14	Brazilian 4½ Bds.	27½	⅝
5 6	Do. 1889	69½	½
5 6	Do. Conf. of Minas	69	½
...	B. Ayres 5 p.c. 1883	102	...
...	Do. 6 p.c. Bds.	104	¼
...	Do. 6 p.c.	97½	...
6 19	Do. Watrs'n'ge ...	96	¼
4 8	Bulgarian 4 p.c.	85½	...
4 14	Caulian 1889	102½	...
nil.	Colombian	13	...
...	Costa Rica	16	24
...	Do.	20	...
...	Ecuador, New ...	4	...
8 0	Egyptn State Dom.	100	6
4 17	Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	104½	⅝
4 16	Do. New Daira ...	103½	⅝
4 12	Do. New 4½ p.c.	102	⅝
4 12	French p.c. Rents	103	⅛
4 17	Do. 4½ p.c. Rents	107½	⅛
...	Greek 5 p.c. 1881	30½	...
...	Do. 6 p.c. 1884	31½	...
...	Do. 5 p.c. Mono.	30½	...
...	Do. Spc. Assrd.	30½	...
...	Guatemala 6 p.c.	97½	...
nil.	Honduras	20½	...
4 0	Hungn. Gold 4 p.c.	102½	¼
4 12	Italian Fives	96	⅛
4 15	Mexican 6 p.c. 1888	97½	⅛
nil.	Peru Ext. Loan ...	4	¼
...	Do. Prefernce ...	10½	11½
15 15	Do. Debentures ...	20½	...
3 19	Portuguese 3 p.c.	29⅝	⅛
3 0	Roumanian 1892	103	⅜
4 0	Spanish 4 p.c.	70½	⅝
4 10	Transvaal 6 p.c. ...	111½	12½
4 11	Turkish Unified ...	21	...
6 5	Do. B	43	½
6 5	Do. C	43½	½
6 5	Do. D	43½	½
6 18	Do. Defered	10½	¼
6 18	Do. Defered	10½	¼
6 15	Uruguay 5 p.c. ...	45½	2
6 15	Venezuela	40	2
	COLONIAL AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
4 15	B. Ayres & Rosario	69	7
4 15	Do. Do. Def.	30	2 xd
2 0	Argentine Centl.	11½	2½
...	Do. N.E. Deb.	17	18
...	Do. Pref.	20	18
6 11	Canadian Pacific.	59½	⅝
nil.	Grand Trunk Ord.	4½	⅛
nil.	Do. 1st Pref. ...	28½	9½
nil.	Do. 2nd Pref. ...	19½	10
nil.	Do. 3rd Pref. ...	10½	¼
nil.	Do. Guaranteed.	38½	¼
nil.	Mexican Ord.	16½	3/4
1 10	Do. 1st Pref. ...	72½	3½
nil.	Do. 2nd Pref. ...	37½	⅝
6 18	Mex. Cen. 4 Bds.	64¾	⅝
...	Do. Ltd. Ord. ...	20	20
9 ...	Nitrate Railways	17½	...

Yield p.c.		M'vent to-day.	Latest Prices.
£ s.	AMERICAN RAILROADS.		
	Shares.		
...	Atchison Shares.	—⅛	5½ ⅛
...	Canada. Sha.	...	77½ ⅛
7 5	Chic. Mil. & St. P.	...	56½ 8/4xd
nil.	Denv. & R. Grand	—⅛	16¾ ⅛
...	Do. Pref.	—⅛	37¾ ⅛
...	Erie	...	9½ 10
...	Do. 1st Pref.	...	25½ ⅛
5 15	Illinois Shares ...	—¼	89 ⅛
7 4	Lake Shore	—⅛	130 ⅛
...	Louis and Nash. ...	...	80 ¼
...	Mans. & Texas ...	...	10½ ⅛
5 2	N. Y. Central Sh.	...	99½ 7¾xd
nil.	N. Y. Ontario	...	18¾ ¼
...	North W. Pref. ...	...	135 ⅛
...	North Pacific Pf.	—¼	18½ ⅛
4 12	Pennsylvania Sh.	—¼	54¼ 2
nil.	Phil. & Read. Sh.	...	6½ ⅛
nil.	Union Pac. Shs.	—¼	10½ ⅛
nil.	Wabash Pref.	—¼	14½ ⅛
	Bonds.		
...	Atchison A	...	29¾ ⅝
5 17	Illinois Cen. Bnd	...	104 ⅛
4 14	Louisville 5 p.c. G.	...	104 ⅛
4 19	Mis. R. A. 6 p.c.	...	83 ⅛
...	N. Y. Cent. 4 p.c. G.	...	105 ⅛
4 18	N.Y., Lake Erie & W.	...	126 ⅛
...	Do. 2nd Mort. ...	—1	62¾ 3/4
...	N.Y., P. & O. 1st M.	...	14 ⅛
5 0	Penns. 3½ Gold ...	...	104 ⅛
nil.	Phil. & Read. In.	—¼	26 ⅛
nil.	Wabash 5 p.c. Deb.	—¼	21½ 2½
	TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.		
5 4	Anglo-American.	...	4½ 2½
5 8	Brazil Submarine	...	11½ 12xd
4 12	Direct U. States ..	...	8½ ⅜
4 12	Eastern	...	8½ ⅜
4 1	Eastern Extension.	...	1¾ ⅛
4 9	National Telephn	...	8½ ⅛
3 4	Tel. Construc.	...	39 4½
	MINING AND LAND.		
20 0	Alaska Prod.	...	1½ ⅛
...	Bayley's Reward	...	10 9
...	Bechuanaland ...	—0.3	2½ ⅛
60 0	Bonsa Hill Prop.	...	2½ ⅛
...	Buffelsdoorn ...	...	3½ ⅛
...	Bullfinch Cons. ...	...	4½ ⅛
5 12	Champion Reef. ...	...	4½ ⅛
...	Chartered Africa.	—⅛	2½ ⅛
1 5	City & Suburban.	...	2½ ⅛
3 15	Comm. Cons. Def.	...	6½ ⅛
...	Crown, New	...	1½ ⅛
5 0	Crown Reef	...	11 ⅛
8 10	De Beers	—¼	21 ⅛
8 0	Durban Roodp'rt.	...	7½ ⅛
...	East Rand	...	3½ ⅛
...	Esperino Co.	...	1½ ⅛
4 12	Geldenhuis	...	4½ ⅛
4 0	Ginsberg	...	1½ ⅛
5 10	Griqua'd W. Diam.	...	7½ ⅛
4 0	Heriot	...	2½ ⅛
5 1	Ingerstontein	...	5¾ 10½
3 0	Jubilee	...	2½ ⅛
3 3	Jumper's Gold ...	...	3½ ⅛
11 5	Langlaagte	...	2½ ⅛
...	Lisbon Berlyn ...	...	1½ ⅛
...	May Consol'd New	...	2½ ⅛
7 17	Meyer & Charlton	...	8½ ⅛
...	Nordenfontein ...	...	1½ ⅛
...	Ollamoopje	+0.6	23/6 23/9
15 18	Mysore Gold	...	2½ ⅛
6 12	Nigel	...	5½ ⅛
...	Nourse	...	2½ ⅛
6 15	Nunquesdag	...	3½ ⅛
...	Oceana Gold	—¼	2½ ⅛
15 13	Oorsprong Gold ...	...	15½ ⅛
6 8	Primrose, New...	...	7½ ⅛
...	Rand Mines	...	9½ ⅛
4 7	Rio Tinto	—⅛	9½ ⅛
4 12	Rose Deep	...	8½ ⅛
2 18	Simmer and Jack	...	3½ ⅛
10 10	Do. Exploration	...	11 10¼
0 0	Sheba	—0.6	13.6 13.6
...	Transvaal Develp	...	16½ 11.6
...	Treasury	...	1½ ⅛
...	Wentworth Fin. ...	+⅛	2½ ⅛
...	Do. Gold	+1-32	2½ ⅛
...	West Aust. Explor	...	2½ ⅛
...	Wolvi Gold Mines	...	2½ ⅛
...	W. Aust. Concess.	...	2½ ⅛
...	Zambesia Explor.	...	8¼ ⅛
	MISCELLANEOUS.		
5 6	Aerated Bread ...	...	6½ 6¾
3 10	Allsopp	+⅛	18⅞ ⅛
4 2	Do. Pref.	+⅛	140½ ⅛
...	Bell's Asbestos...	...	0 ⅛
6 15	Bovril and Mag.	...	19½ 19¾
3 0	Costa Ord.	...	2½ ⅛
2 11	Do. Preferred ...	...	11½ ⅛
nil.	Eastman's Ord. ...	...	2 ⅛
12 0	Empire (Ltd. pd.)	...	2½ ⅛
9 9	Do. (2s. pd.) ...	...	2½ ⅛
5 14	Evans (D.H. & Co)	...	16½ ⅛
5 14	Gramophone	...	16¾ 17½
4 0	Gommess & Co. ...	...	2½ ⅛
nil.	Hamond's Meat ...	...	1½ ⅛
4 6	Hudson's Bay ...	...	2½ ⅛
3 12	Hudson's Say	...	1½ ⅛
5 0	Liebig Extract ...	...	9 10
10 0	Pears	...	9¾ 9¾
4 0	Pearson & Dorling	...	18½ ⅛
nil.	Primitiva Asfalte	—⅛	1½ ⅛
...	Rail. Invest. Pref.	...	17½ 18½
0 0	Salmon & Gluzs	...	3¾ ⅛
nil.	San Donato	...	2½ ⅛
10 10	San Jorge	...	2½ ⅛
10 10	San Pablo	...	2½ ⅛
5 0	Spiers & Pond ...	—⅛	14 ⅛
4 15	Spratt's Patent...	...	2½ ⅛
5 0	Sun Cabinet	+1	13⅝ ⅛
...	Trustees Estates.	...	6 9dis

MINES.	PRICE.	MINES.	PRICE.
Achilles	3.6	De Lamar	29/6
Ac. Alluvial 1889	14/9	Dickens Chaser ...	1½
Ant. Coal Explr.	1.6	East Orford	1½
Ant. Sovereign ...	1.6	East Leigh	⅛
Arie Gold Con.	4.9	Elimore	2.6
Ainkamer	1.6	Elmore Extn.	1.6
Alaska Treadwell	2½	Esperanza, New	1 pm
Alaska Treadwell	2½	Ferreira	⅛
Anglo-French ...	2.6	Frontino	1½
Anglo-French ...	2.6	F. Johnson	2.6
Ang. Fr. New ...	2.6	Geldenhuis Dp.	4½
Associated M.A.	1.6	George & Nat. ...	1.6
Austin	2.6	George Goch ...	5.6
Austin Bro. Hill	2.6	Geo. Goch, New	5.6
Balghat	3.0	Golden	1½
Balghat Valley	1.6	Goldsmith	1½
Balkis Land	5.6	Gordon Island	1.0
Banket	11.6	Grackop	1.6
Bechuanaland ...	2½	Great Boulder ...	1.0
Barrett	1.0	Guy Fawkes	1.6
Bayley Extend	1.6	Hardy Lagle	1.6
Bayley's West.	1.6	Hamlin Plains ...	1½
Bendigo	1.6	Harmony Prm. ...	4.6
Bonnie Dundee	1.6	Harquanala	2.0
big Blow	1½	Haurat	1.0
Brilliant Gold ...	1.10½	Heavenly Valley	1½
Brit. Bra. Hill.	4.9	Holcomb Val. Pr.	3.10½
Brown Hill	1.6	Hoover	1½
Burma Ruby	2.6	Jackson's	1.6
Cape Asbestos ...	2½	Jalum. Invest ...	1.6
Cape Copper	2½	Jumper Extn. ...	1.0
Caledonia	1.6	Kaiser (Limited)	1½
Caratal	1.7½	Kangaralla Prm.	1.6
Carlyle	2½	Kangarilla	3.6
Chalmers	1.6	Kapanga	1.6
Champ d'Or Dp	5.0	Kaboonga	3.0
Charters Towers	3.6	Kempcaste	1.6
Chimes, New ...	1.6	Keselia	1½
Colombian	1.9	Kleinfontein ...	4½
Cons. Gold Prer.	21.6	Klerksdorp	3.6
Coolgardie Sth.	1.9	Knight's	6½
Copapan	1.6	Koffyfontein ...	2.6
Lawson	1.6	Lisagte Royal.	1.6
Dec Down F.C.	1.6	Liberia	5.6

MINES.	PRICE.	MINES.	PRICE.
Lisbon - Berlyn	4½	Salisbury	3½
Lower Boulder ...	1.6	Sandhurst	1.6
Lupanara	2.6	So. Ming. Syndt	2.6
Main Reef, New	2.6	South Africa ...	1.6
Mason & Barry ...	4½	Stella Lode	1.6
Massi Kessi	1.6	Sticka Queen ...	1.6
Matabele Lode ...	1.6	Stella	1.6
Matabele Reef.	1½ pm	Silati	1.0
Mexican	1.6	Sub. Londonderry	2½
Metropolitan	2½	South Orion	1½
Mexico	2½	Spes Bona	2½
Montana	2.6	Sp. Gotzenhain	1.6
Moodie	15.6	Sp. Sweetland ...	3.0
Mysore Gold ...	15.6	Sutherland Land	2½
Mysore Iddina	18.9	Spitzkop	1.0
Do. Prefd.	2.6	Tanganyika	1.6
" Reef	5.0	St. Augustine	8.6
Nigel Extension	13.6	Stanhope	2½
North Rand	2.6	Stayne	2½
North Star	1.6	St. Johnnet Rey	1½
Orange K. Estate	3.6	Straits Rangoon	2½
Ophir Gold	1.6	Sutherland	29.6
Oregum Prm. ...	2½	Tharsis Merger ...	1½
Oregum Reef ...	2½	Tharsis	4½
Orion, New	3.6	Tigerton & Assoc	1.6
Pardy's Nozam	2.6	Transvaal Gold ...	4½
Pelaez Silver ...	1.6	Transvaal Agency	1.6
Pilbarra Griffin.	1.6	Trevaskis	1.6
Potchefstroom	11.6	Victoria	2½
Poor Man	2.3	Waratah	8.2
Queen's Dp Pr.	17.6	Wentworth Fin.	2½
Rand Rhodesia	2½	W. A. Finance.	2½
Randfontein ...	42.6	Wahi	6½
Rathbone Gold	1.6	Wh. Old Lisbon	1.6
Rietfontein	3½	Willoughby Con	1½
Rosedale Deep ...	2.6	Wolhuter	2½
Rothery Blk	18.6	Zapopan	3.6

LONDON EXHIBITIONS LIMITED.

THE PRIVATE ISSUE OF DEBENTURES.

Self-condemned stands the debenture prospectus issued by the directors of the London Exhibitions (Limited), for on its face it bears the words "Private and Confidential." The London Exhibitions (Limited) is a public company, and there is no reason in the world why it should not make a debenture issue publicly like any other public company, unless it be that it is ashamed of the issue, and afraid of criticism in the public press, which must entail the inevitable warning to investors not to subscribe. Secretly has this prospectus been circulated, we should guess, amongst those who are not aware of the circumstances of the company. But it is a poor game, and we hope an ineffective, although the lists are announced to close to-day. We are not surprised that the directors should seek to hide their necessity of raising more money. The company has not been in existence many months; it has issued the whole of its share capital, amounting to £100,000, and now, even before the doors of its exhibition at Earl's Court are opened, it is seeking to issue privately £50,000 in first charge debenture stock, bearing the high rate of interest of 5½ per cent.

THE POSITION.

It would be interesting to know how the shareholders of the company feel on learning that this block of capital is to be put before that which they hold. They can scarcely have expected when they were asked to subscribe that it would be necessary to make a debenture issue thus early. They doubtless thought, as any one would have thought, that the issuing of first charge debenture stock, especially bearing such a rate of interest as 5½ per cent., would have been reserved as a last resource instead of at the very outset of the company's career, just after the share capital has been safely garnered in. The company is authorized to issue only £650,000 of debenture stock, and here £50,000 is to be put upon the market at one fell swoop. Shareholders must be preparing questions as to what misfortune, what extravagance, what unforeseen event has led to the issue. For ourselves, of course we cannot profess to be surprised at anything which may occur to the London Exhibitions (Limited)—unless it be its development into a profitable concern. We foresaw disaster and warned shareholders against subscribing when the capital was issued. We pointed out the inequitable nature of the contracts which the directors of the company made, and to which they refused us access, showing that these were for the benefit of the directors, of Messrs. Spiers and Pond, and of the District Railway Company, rather than of the shareholders. Our disclosures were of such a nature that they would doubtless have prevented the subscription of the capital, had not these been got in by the private issue of prospectuses, and had not the directors closed the lists immediately on the appearance of our criticism, apparently to prevent withdrawals. Now, the shareholders find that before they can get a penny dividend not only will the high rate of interest have to be paid on these £50,000 of debentures; but they will have to provide a sinking fund out of the profits, if there are any, of £2,700 a year.

THE PROSPECTUS.

But we hope that the debenture stock will not be issued, for he who would of his free will subscribe to it is a fool. Let us look at the prospectus. In the first place, from the words "private and confidential" at the beginning, to the end, where the directors seek to contract themselves out of the Directors' Liability Act, 1890, in respect of statements made in the prospectus, there is not a word to show how the money is to be used. All that is shown is that the company is in need of the money for its ordinary purposes, not for extensions or improvements or anything of that kind, and must have it. The prospectus is much like a hash-up of that which was issued to obtain the share capital. We are treated to a description of the coming Empire of India Exhibition, the bands, the illuminations, the fountains, and so on—not forgetting our old friend the Great Wheel. The Great Wheel is still "last approaching completion," and is "expected to be a great attraction." Of course, there is the spectacle in which Mr. Imre Kiraly is to surpass himself—Mr. Imre Kiraly, who is to have such a big haul, not on the company's profits, but on the company's gross receipts. We are told that the company is concluding arrangements with the various railway companies for through bookings, although we are not reminded that the Exhibition may advertise no route but the Metropolitan District, so completely has the railway company, as the landlord, got them on the hip. Then, arrangements have been made with Spiers and Pond for refreshments of which we beg leave to doubt the advantage; the Old Welcome Club will be there, but where is the Welcome Club proper? Truly all this is a nice solid dish to put before debenture-holders who have to consider their security.

THE SECURITY.

The stock is secured, it is stated, by a floating first charge to the trustees on the whole property and undertaking of the company. The trustees for the debenture-holders ought to be independent of the concern, but they consist of two of the directors of the company, and are none other than the vice-chairman and managing director of Spiers and Pond. And as to the whole property of the company. This includes, we presume, the late Albert Palace and the late Paris Hippodrome, and when we were last referring to the company's affairs, the directors, in a letter which they forced upon us, were anxious to point out that they purchased these at the price of old iron. Considering the havoc wrought by the gale on Sunday, some part of the bu

HAND-IN-HAND SOCIETY.

INSTITUTED 1696.

The OLDEST Insurance Office.

LARGE BONUSES.

DEATH DUTIES COVERED.

ANNUAL INCOME, £345,746.
ACCUMULATED FUNDS, £2,545,989.

26, NEW BRIDGE STREET, E.C.

TREBLE THE LIGHT. HALF THE COST.

THE INCANDESCENT GASLIGHT.

"WELSBACH SYSTEM."

Gives TREBLE the light of ORDINARY BURNERS, With HALF the CONSUMPTION of GAS.

NO SMOKE. NO DIRT. NO FLICKER.

SIX VALID REASONS
Why every one should use it.

1. IT SAVES HALF THE GAS BILL.
2. Gives TREBLE the LIGHT.
3. Requires no alteration of fittings.
4. Is clean, STEADY, and brilliant.
5. Atmosphere not vitiated.
6. Pleasant, simple, and economical.

Can be attached to existing gas fittings in a few minutes without alteration.

NO SMOKE. NO DIRT. NO FLICKER.

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INCANDESCENT GASLIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED,

the SOLE OWNERS and MANUFACTURERS of this System of Lighting.

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"Begone, Dull Care!" *Use*

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

(Chemists, 1s. 1½d.)

Small Pill,
Small Dose,
Small Price.

Eat, drink, and be merry, with Perfect Appetite, Fearless Digestion, and Active Liver.

TAKE NOTE: CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

HAVE NEVER FAILED.

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EXHIBITION OF VENETIAN ART.—NEW GALLERY, REGENT-STREET.—LAST TWO WEEKS. Now Open 10 to 6. Will Close April 6th.

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ABERYSTWITH.—Soft Atlantic Breezes. Pure water from Plinlimmon, and excellent drainage. The late Sir Jas. Clarke, M.D., says:—"A fortnight at Aberystwith is equal to a month at most watering-places." The QUEEN'S and BELLE VUE HOTELS face the sea.—For tariffs, &c., apply to W. H. PALMER, Proprietor.

AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE.

HOTEL BURLINGTON.

Every luxury. Moderate charges.
Ten minutes from Bournemouth East Station. Tariffs free. Also to be had at Burlington and Buckingham Palace Hotels, London.

APPROACHING LONDON SEASON.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE HOTEL, BUCKINGHAM-GATE, LONDON, S.W., delightfully situated, facing the Royal Palace and Gardens, and near Victoria Station. Public dining, drawing, reading, and smoking rooms. New passenger lift at front entrance. Sanitation certified by the London Sanitary Protection Association. Electric light in every room. Front suites of three rooms from 12s. a day. Wedding receptions undertaken. Same management as the Burlington Hotel.
SPECIAL NOTICE.—Tariffs may be obtained at the Hôtel Burlington, Boscombe, Bournemouth. "Sunny Boscombe."

COUNTRY RESIDENCE BY THE DAY OR WEEK.—THE HALL BUSHEY, HERTS.—Hourly Service from Euston and Broadstreet, sixteen miles. Rate, J. Harding, M.D., Resident Physician. Fine mansion, extensive with its Pleasure Grounds (140 acres) forms the most charming Health Resort. Baths (Turkish, Swimming, &c.), free to Residents. Well Hents Golf Club Course in Park. Electric Lighting. Private Post, Telegraph (Tel. add. "Hyde, Watford"). Telephone No. 17, Watford. Address Manager for prospectus.

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LANGHAM HOTEL, Portland-place, London, W. Admirably situated at the top of Regent-street. In the most fashionable, convenient, and healthy locality. Near the best shops &c. Modern improvements. Tariff on application. Wedding receptions, dinners, &c. Artesian well water. Electric lights. Moderate tariff.

LONDON.—HOTEL WINDSOR, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.—SPECIAL Novices. Electrically lighted throughout day and night. Moderate tariff. Table d'Hôte, at separate tables, from 6 to 8 (or 9 to 10 p.m. by appointment). Turkish and swimming baths. Inclusive terms 12s. per day.
J. R. CLEAVE and CO., Proprietors.

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Lawn Tennis, Golf, Fishing.
Excursions to St. Mary's Loch and other beautiful resorts.
Terms—7s. 11s. 6d. per day.

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Prepared according to the late Baron Liebig's own instructions.

CAUTION.—The undersigned beg to inform all purchasers that they will obtain the best quality of LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT, prepared according to the late Baron Liebig's "own instructions" from the finest Australian cattle, if they ask for LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT, with "RAMORNIE" on the label, RAMORNIE being the name of the place where it has been made for the last 28 years by

THE AUSTRALIAN MEAT COMPANY,

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WILL OFFER FOR SALE,

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THE ENTIRE STOCK OF

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SATIN CHINÉ BROCADES per yard, 2s. 6d.
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ADDITIONAL SHOWROOMS
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MAPLE and CO.'s 1895 Extensions enable them to more adequately represent their Stock of Baths, Lavatories, and Kitchen Ranges. The largest selection by all the best makers at Wholesale Prices. Architects, Builders, and private buyers can thus see and test all the latest models in one warehouse, securing the most favourable terms, avoiding loss of time and expense.

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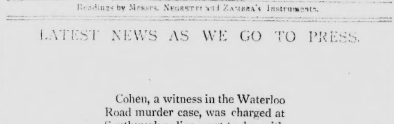

LATEST NEWS AS WE GO TO PRESS.

Cohen, a witness in the Waterloo Road murder case, was charged at Southwark police-court to-day with perjury and was remanded.

THE FRANCO-MALAGASY CAMPAIGN.

ALLEGED EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN MERCENARIES.

A letter from Tamatave in the *Temps* speaks of the arrival of adventurers from British South Africa at Manajary and Vatomandry to help the Hovas. The result, the writer intimates, will be the employment of stricter measures by the French at Tamatave and the rejection of the petition of the foreign merchants against a blockade. The correspondent also speaks of "Le Sieur Shervinkon" as having circulated at the Cape and in Natal invitations by the Hova Government to foreigners, the inducement being 5s. a day and concessions of land and mines at the end of the campaign. The correspondent does not believe that these foreign mercenaries will be numerous. He warns them that, if captured, they will be treated with severity, it being necessary to teach a lesson to a class of foreigners disposed to help the adversary whenever France undertakes a colonial expedition.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS BY PRESIDENT FAURE.

PARIS, Thursday.—President Faure left at midnight for Sathonay, to present colours to the 200th Infantry Regiment which is about to leave for Madagascar. He was loudly cheered by a large crowd at the station.—*Reuter.*

SATINWOOD AND MAHOGANY.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE.

DEBENHAM and FREEBODY are at present exhibiting a collection of Antique Furniture (mainly English XVIII. Century), including some very fine pieces in the styles of Chippendale, Heppelwhite, Mahew and Ince, Shearer and Sheraton. A FEATURE OF SPECIAL INTEREST is inlaid and painted antique SATINWOOD. A detailed Catalogue and Price List (*with Introduction, Notes, and Illustrations by K. M. Warren*), will be sent post free on application.

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FANCY DRESS BALLS, COVENT GARDEN.—The NEXT BALL of the SEASON will take place TO-MORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING (the Eve of the Boat Race) at 11 P.M.
On this occasion an exceptional allotment of prizes will be made.
A 50 guinea tea-service
A 30 guinea single sculling skiff.
A 30 guinea Canadian canoe.
A 15 guinea Indian lady canoe.
A camping-out tent with all accessories.
A complete tennis set
and twenty other valuable prizes.
Box-office open daily from 10 A.M.

OPÉRA COMIQUE.—THE INDEPENDENT THEATRE.
Directors—J. T. Grein and Dorothy Leighton.
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE of the THÉATRE DE L'ŒUVRE of PARIS.
Under the direction of Mons. Lugne-Poë.
TO-NIGHT, at eight P.M., ROSMERSHOLM, a play in four acts, by Henrik Ibsen. To be followed by LA FAUSSE, a play in one act, by M. Maeterlinck.
TO-MORROW, at eight P.M., PELLEAS ET MELISANDE, by M. Maeterlinck.
On SATURDAY NEXT, at 8 P.M., SOLNESS (The Master Builder), a play in three acts, by Henrik Ibsen.
MATINÉES on SATURDAY NEXT of SOLNESS, at 2.30 P.M.
Seats at all Libraries and Box-offices.

THE ROYAL, HOLBORN.—Return of Harry Randall. Special Engagement of Gertrella, Slack Wire and Trapeze Artist. Other Varieties by Peggy Pryde, Violet Campbell, The Ancciotti Troupe, Mary Lynne, Charles Ingnell, Marie Dalston, The Kellion Troupe, Dunlop Brothers, Sisters Carlow, Hughes and Farron, Juvenile Delavanis, Richard Pitch, Dora Clifford, and the famous Joe Troupe in their successful sketch "Electric Invention." Prices from 6d. to £2 2s. Doors open every evening at 7.30, and on Saturday Matinées at 2.30. Manager, Mr. ARTHUR SWANBOROUGH.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION.
BAKER STREET STATION.
Now on view! Now on view!!
OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOATRACE.
Grand scene representing
The Boats shooting Hammersmith Bridge.
MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION.

OLYMPIA. THE ORIENT. OLYMPIA
Open 12 to 11 P.M. without Interval. 2,000 Tickets for numbered and reserved seats at 1s. (including admission to all Side Shows) on sale from 12 and 6 P.M. for Morning and Evening Performances respectively. In the event of these being sold, Promenade Tickets at 1s. are issued at once, admitting to all side shows, but not to Grand Stage Spectacle. Tickets, 2s., 3s., 4s., 5s., at the doors or in advance at all Box Offices or Olympia. Holiday Hill-price to Morning Spectacle to seats above 1s. Covered Way from and to Addison-road Station. Oriental Warmth. 2,500 Performers. The Grandest Show on Earth.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—GRAND PROMENADE CONCERTS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS, at 8. Vocalists THIS EVENING, Madame Lori, Mr. Clifford Constable, and Mr. Alexander Musgrove. On Saturday, Madame Agnes Larkcom, Miss Hannah Jones, and Mr. Herbert Thornhill. Thousands of free seats.

NIAGARA HALL, ST. JAMES'S PARK STATION.
Unsold's Patent, most successful in the world.
Real Ice Skating. Ice always in perfect condition.
Daily 8.0 to 1.0, 2s.; 3 to 6.30, 2s.; 8 to 11.30, 3s. Excellent Orchestra.
First-class Restaurant open all day.

MARSHALL & SNELGROVE.

CARPETS and CURTAINS
FOR
FLATS and BACHELORS' CHAMBERS.

VERE ST. AND OXFORD ST., W.

THE CHINO-JAPANESE WAR.

CONDITION OF LI HUNG CHANG.

SHIMONOSEKI, Thursday.—The condition of Li Hung Chang continues favourable, and at present there is no reason to fear complications. The Prefect and the chief of police have been deprived of their office.—*Reuter.*

INTERVENTION OF THE GREAT POWERS.

ST. PETERSBURG, Thursday.—According to a semi-official statement published here last night, Germany and the United States, replying to the representations made by the Chinese envoys soliciting the intervention of the Powers with a view to the declaration of an armistice between China and Japan during the peace negotiations, stated that they were resolved to preserve a strict neutrality in the war, while the other Powers declared that they did not consider the time for intervention had yet arrived.—*Reuter.*

NECESSITY OF AN ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

The St. Petersburg *Grashdanin*, in an article yesterday, points out the necessity for an understanding between Russia and Great Britain, in order to bring their joint influence to bear upon Japan and induce her to renounce the idea of any territorial acquisition upon the mainland of Asia. The journal considers that such an agreement might be concluded if Great Britain would consent to China ceding to Russia certain territories in Mongolia required for the construction of the Siberian Railway, while Russia, on her side, would give Great Britain substantial guarantees for the security of the Indian frontier.

THE JAPANESE LOAN TO KOREA.

YOKOHAMA, Thursday.—The loan of three million yen which the Japanese Government proposed to advance to Korea, and which was yesterday reported to have been abandoned owing to the request of the Korean Government that it should only be repayable in fifteen years, has after all been arranged on the basis proposed by Japan—namely, that it should be repayable in five years.—*Reuter.*

THE CIVIL WAR IN PERU.

COUNTER-REVOLUTION THREATENED.

BUENOS AYRES, Thursday.—A telegram from Lima announces that the partisans of Dr. Valcarcel and of Dr. Pedro del Solar are dissatisfied with the action of General Pierola, and threaten to bring about a counter-revolution.—*Reuter.*

The Right Rev. Dr. Meade, Bishop of Cork, Clovne, and Ross, having been bitten on the hand by a pet dog a few days ago, proceeded to Paris, and is now under treatment at the Pasteur Institute. The Bishop's health remains good.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE SITUATION IN CHITRAL.

PREPARING FOR THE MARCH NORTHWARD.

NOWSHERA, Thursday.—The Chitral expedition, under the command of Major-General Sir Robert Low, will commence its advance northward on the 30th inst. The Second Brigade, which has assembled at Huti-Mardan, nearly half-way between this place and the frontier, and which will have only light equipment, will push on in advance to the Malakund Pass at the southern entrance into Swat. It is expected that the expedition will be opposed by the Swatis both in the Malakund Pass, which will be reached in three days after the start, and on the Swat River at the northern outlet of the Pass. Information regarding the preparations and movements of the tribes is scarce but opposition on the route is certain.—*Reuter.*

LETTER FROM THE HON. GEORGE CURZON.

Mr. G. N. Curzon, M.P., has addressed a long letter to the *Times* on the present outlook in Chitral, in which he sharply criticises the policy of recognizing the *de facto* rulers of native States apart from character, history, circumstances, or probable results, and urges that if we are to control Chitral we must in the future be in a position to enforce that control by maintaining the Political Officer in or near the capital with a sufficient body of troops. Mr. Curzon also dwells on the necessity of opening, and keeping open, the southern route to Chitral.

TRAIN WRECKING IN INDIA.

ANOTHER DASTARDLY ATTEMPT.

CALCUTTA, Thursday.—Another attempt to wreck a train was made on Tuesday night at a spot fifty-seven miles from Jubbulpore, about half-way between this city and Bombay. The train was a special conveying troops. A sleeper was placed across the line, but the train escaped without being damaged.—*Reuter.*

SOCIALISTS AND THE EMPEROR WILLIAM.

THE RECENT TELEGRAM TO BISMARCK.

BERLIN, Thursday.—The Socialist organ *Vorwaerts* states that the Socialist Democrats have resolved on the occasion of the third reading of the Estimates to bring forward a resolution calling upon the Reichstag to take some action in regard to the Emperor's recent telegram to Prince Bismarck, expressing regret at the rejection of the proposal to congratulate the ex-Chancellor on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.—*Reuter.*

RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY.

"AN ACT OF INDISCRETION."

PARIS, Thursday.—The *Petite République* mentions an "act of indiscretion" alleged to have been committed in connection with the last sitting of the supreme military council on the 24th inst. The matter is said to have been communicated to the German Ambassador, who immediately sent a cipher telegram on the subject to his Government. The duplicates of this telegram, it is added, were sent by the postal authorities in the usual course to several of the Ministries, and at the Ministry of War where the officials succeeded in deciphering the telegram, the affair caused the greatest sensation. General Zurlinden, Minister of War, the journal continues, has requested the Minister of Justice to take such measures against the author of the "indiscretion" as the circumstances demand.—*Reuter.*

THE TROUBLES IN ARMENIA.

FIGHT BETWEEN MUSSULMANS AND CHRISTIANS.

According to the latest advices received in Constantinople, five people were killed and some fifty wounded in the fight between Mussulmans and Christians at Tokat, on the 20th instant. The affair originated in a scuffle between some Armenians and gendarmes, which led to the Christians assembling in their churches and the Turks in the mosques, and then sally forth for a regular fight. The state of affairs is regarded as still very disquieting, owing to the agitation of the Armenians, the threatening attitude of the Turks, and the weakness of the local authorities.

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN IN AFRICA.

OCCUPATION OF ADIGRAT.

An official despatch from Massowah, of yesterday's date, announces the occupation of Adigrat by the Italians. General Baratieri telegraphs:—I entered Adigrat at three o'clock on the afternoon of the 25th inst. Agostafari went to meet me with his people, who are perfectly quiet, and upon whom a strong impression has been made by the imposing discipline of our troops, both white and native. On the same day the regular market was held in the town. Kas Mangascia, whose forces have been weakened by continual desertions, is about fifty kilometres to the south of Adigrat, and appears disposed to retire still further, hoping to receive assistance from the Emperor Menelik. I have sent a flying column against Ras Mangascia, and am fortifying Adigrat. Tranquillity continues to prevail at Kassala.

THE BRITISH TERRITORY ON THE NIGER.

GEOGRAPHICAL MISSIONS NOT EXPEDITIONS.

Referring to the telegram from Akassa announcing the arrival in the Niger Company's territory of two large French expeditions, the Paris *Temps* says:—The French Government has not sent large expeditions to the bend of the Niger. Missions have simply been entrusted lately to French explorers to reconnoitre geographically and politically the hinterland of Dahomey. Have they arrived at the points stated in the telegram from Akassa? It is possible. Officially, in Paris, nothing is yet known in the matter. But are not English missions attempting at this very moment to explore the territories traversed by French expeditions? We did not contest the right of the English company to confide a mission to Captain Lugard, whereas the British Press would not have failed to fulminate against us if the French Government had made a fresh appeal to the well-known energy of Captain Mizon.

THE FRENCH PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.

PARIS, Thursday.—The Ligue des Patriotes, which was dissolved a few years ago, is stated by the *Gaulois* to have been reconstituted under the name of the "Ligue Patriotique des Intérêts Français." The new organization, of which M. Paul Déroulède is president, retains the motto of the patriotic league, "Qui vive—France quand même."—*Reuter.*

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN SPAIN.

MADRID, Thursday.—Marshal Martinez Campos will to-morrow introduce in the Senate a bill providing that attacks upon the army, even in the press, shall be punished by court-martial.—*Reuter.*

POLITICAL AGITATION IN BELGIUM.

At a Cabinet Council held in Brussels yesterday, it was decided to call out immediately seven thousand men of the Reserve. This step has been taken by the Government in order to be prepared for any eventuality, in view of the latent political agitation prevailing in most of the industrial centres.

THE BELGIAN POISONING CASE.

Several Brussels newspapers state that there is a possibility of the verdict of guilty brought in against Mdme. Joniaux being quashed, on the ground that the foreman of the jury was not of Belgian nationality.

PARISIAN PASSION FOR ENQUÊTES.

PATERNITY AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Wednesday Evening.—The journals of Paris have a passion for what they term *enquêtes*. One which is now agitating the Parisians concerns M. Groussier's law for the discovery of the paternity of such children as know not their own father. And it is an opportunity for much difference of opinion. Of course M. Berenger believes it to be one of the century's great reforms. M. Zola, on the other hand, deems legislation in the matter entirely impossible, though M. Jules Simon, with his customary optimism and confidence in the law, believes in "*la recherche de la paternité*," albeit he sees the danger of blackmail. And so the one contradicts the other, until M. Rochefort is permitted to close the discussion with a *mot*. "Paternity," says the editor of *L'Intransigeant*, "is like the philosopher's stone. You may look for it as much as you like, but you will never find it." And there the *enquête* ends, and, unless M. Groussier can work miracles of discovery, one is not tempted to believe in his law.

GREAT BRITAIN AND NICARAGUA.

TERMS OF THE ULTIMATUM.

WASHINGTON, Thursday.—The text of the British ultimatum to Nicaragua, which has been published here, says that the conduct of Vice-Consul Hatch was perfectly correct, and demands, in addition to the payment of £15,000 as reparation for the expulsion of British subjects, the unconditional cancelling of the decrees of exile issued against them. As regards the constitution of the commission to assess the losses of British subjects, the ultimatum says the third member is to be a jurist, not a citizen of any American State, to be selected by agreement between Great Britain and Nicaragua, and failing that by the President of the Swiss Confederation. All awards are to be final and paid within three months. The ultimatum further refers to the maltreatment of other British subjects, and demands £500 for the seizure of the schooner *Anglia*. Finally, Great Britain declares that the settlement of the matter of the arrest and imprisonment of British subjects must precede any discussion of the recent proceedings on the Mosquito Coast or of other affairs.—*Reuter.*

COURT CEREMONIAL IN FRANCE.

THE CASE OF COUNT DE BOURQUENCY.

PARIS, Thursday.—The *Autorité* says that, in spite of all denials to the statement made yesterday by the *Journal* that Count de Bourquency had been relieved of his office as Chief of the Protocole, it is certain that that functionary will not be retained in his present post. His removal will, it is added, be officially announced simultaneously with the list of changes in the diplomatic service which is to appear before the end of the week.—*Reuter.*

SERIOUS FLOODS IN CROATIA.

HOUSES SUBMERGED TO THEIR ROOF-TOPS.

VIENNA, Thursday.—The low-lying parts of the City of Agram, the capital of Croatia, have been flooded to a great depth, owing to the overflowing of the river Save. The adjacent country has the appearance of a vast lake, and many houses are submerged to their roof-tops. The damage to property will be enormous.—*Central News.*

THE INSURRECTION IN CUBA.

REINFORCEMENTS UNDER MARSHAL CAMPOS.

MADRID, Thursday.—The reinforcements to leave for Cuba with Marshal Campos on Tuesday next will number 3,700 men of all arms. Private reports received here state that the insurgents already in the field number fully 7,000. Over and above this force the Government has reason for believing that a well-equipped filibustering expedition, which left Costa Rica on board an English ship ostensibly for Jamaica, has been transferred to an American vessel bound for Cuba. General Primo Rivera has been appointed to succeed Marshal Campos as Captain-General of Madrid.—*Central News.*

ANARCHIST TRIAL IN HUNGARY.

VIENNA, Thursday.—A State trial for high treason is about to commence in Prague, the prisoners being the chief leaders of the secret Anarchist association entitled "The Wasps," which was formed last September and discovered by the police.—*Central News.*

THE GERMAN LAW OF SUCCESSION.

BERLIN, Thursday.—The Progressist party in the Reichstag have given notice of a motion for the abolition of existing family trusts, and prohibiting the leaving of estates in trust in the future.—*Reuter.*

MOVEMENTS OF ROYALTIES.

RETURN OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

PARIS, Thursday.—The Prince of Wales yesterday afternoon paid a visit to the Exhibition of Portraits of Celebrated Women at the Palais Galliera. In the evening his Royal Highness went to see M. Jules Lemaitre's "L'Âge Difficile" at the Gymnase, and requested the stage-manager to convey to the author his cordial congratulations.—*Reuter.*

The Duchess of York visited the Great Northern Hospital yesterday, afternoon and inspected the ward she endowed. Sir Francis de Winton was in attendance.

DEATH OF THE DOWAGER-DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH.

The Duchess of Buccleuch died shortly after one o'clock this morning at Slough. Her Grace, who was the second daughter of the second Marquis of Bath, was born in 1811, and was Mistress of the Robes to the Queen from 1841 to 1846.

LORD SALISBURY AT THE ENGINEERS' BANQUET.

The annual banquet of the Institution of Civil Engineers was held last night in the hall of the Merchant Taylors' Company. Sir R. Rawlinson presided, and among the speakers were the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Salisbury. The latter proposed the toast of the evening, and spoke of the great waste of human industry brought about by the concentration of millions of men on the Continent in continual preparation for the possibilities of war. This was, said his lordship, an unfortunate but inevitable result of the vast developments of natural forces and facilities of rapid movement which had been achieved by the civil engineers.

MR. BALFOUR AND THE LONDON POLICE FORCE.

Mr. Balfour was present last night at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan and City Police Pensioners Employment Association, and in the course of his remarks paid a warm tribute to the efficiency of the police force and the services it rendered, and expressed his sympathy with the objects of the society.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MEDICAL BARONETS.

A complimentary dinner was given last night at the Criterion Restaurant to Sir John Erichsen, Sir Russell Reynolds, and Sir John Williams, the recently-created medical baronets. Lord Reay, vice-president of the University College, occupied the chair.

The number of paupers relieved in the metropolis on the last day of the second week in March was 130,699, or 28,149 in excess of the number on the corresponding day of 1894.

Mr. Justice Stirling yesterday reserved judgment in the action of Haufstaengel *v.* the Empire Theatre Company which arose out of the living pictures.

DOCKERS' UNION SECRETARYSHIP.

THE LIBEL ACTION BY MR. BEN TILLETT.

Mr. Justice Hawkins and a special jury continued the hearing this morning of the action brought by Alderman Ben Tillett against the *Morning* (Limited), to recover damages for libel alleged to have been included in a leaderette in that newspaper commenting on a meeting addressed by the secretary of the Dockers' Union in July last. Mr. Willis, Q.C., Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Owen Roberts were for the plaintiff, while the defendant was represented by Mr. Carson, Q.C., and Mr. Llewellyn Davies, Tom Davies, district secretary for Hull, said there were about 2,500 members in his district now. Previously they had some 14,000 members, but the dock strike in Hull caused a large falling off in their membership. The feeling of their members towards the plaintiff was essentially a friendly one. In cross-examination witness said he did not know if the men were dissatisfied with the union. Several other local secretaries gave similar evidence. The plaintiff, recalled, said the expenditure referred to yesterday included strike pay, £3,482 0s. 9½*d.* for 1893; for legal expenses, £783 15s. 7*d.*; death benefits, £496; and officers' salaries, £2,332 18s. 4*d.* The union had £2,500 invested in Consols. By Mr. Carson: Their contributions from fines, levies, entrance fees, &c., were not £6,606 for the year, but £8,911, which did not include some collections from the union in respect of the Hull dock strike. Mr. Carson: Were the salaries of paid officers in 1893 £4,225 14s. 4*d.*? Witness: The total might be that, of course. Continuing, he said, including the district officers the total would be £2,332 18s. 4*d.*

THE DEFENDANTS CALL NO WITNESSES.

This was plaintiff's case, and Mr. Carson said he did not purpose to call any witnesses. Mr. Willis, in summing up plaintiff's case, pointed out to the jury that topics far away from the question they had to try had been raised, attempting thereby to create prejudice in their minds. They had been drawn aside from the simple question they had to try as to the meaning of the words contained in this article, and whether the defendant, upon whom the burden of proof rested, had satisfied them that the accusation was true in substance or in fact. He (Mr. Willis) never entered into the question of the expenditure of the Union, its management, and its objects, and the question involved in the action had nothing to do with the union.

THE QUEENSBERRY LIBEL CASE.

DATE OF TRIAL FIXED.

On the application of Mr. C. F. Gill, on behalf of the Marquis of Queensberry, and of Mr. Charles Mathews on behalf of Mr. Oscar Wilde, Mr. Justice Henn Collins to-day fixed the hearing of the Queensberry libel case for Wednesday next. Mr. Gill said he had intimated to the other side what the character of the plea of justification was, and he had promised to deliver such plea not later than Saturday morning. Mr. Matthews said it was very much desired on both sides that this case should be speedily dealt with, and hence it was that the prosecution were not adopting the customary course of asking for an adjournment in order to meet the plea of justification.

THE WATERLOO ROAD TRAGEDY.

WOODWARD SENTENCED TO PENAL SERVITUDE.

James Woodward, who was convicted yesterday at the Central Criminal Court of the manslaughter of Rachel Goldstein, in the Waterloo-road, was brought up to-day for sentence. Prisoner said he knew he had done wrong, and was prepared to meet his punishment, but the girl and those in the house goaded him to frenzy. His lordship admitted the provocation, but could not overlook the fact that he had used a dangerous weapon upon a defenceless woman, and sentenced him to three years' penal servitude.

SERIOUS OMNIBUS ACCIDENT.

SEVERAL PASSENGERS INJURED.

At about half-past eight this morning as an omnibus from Camden Town was passing the corner at Tudor-place, Tottenham Court-road, an axle suddenly broke, and the vehicle overturned. The seven passengers on the top, who included five ladies, were thrown with great violence to the ground, and those inside were much cut by broken glass. Some of the passengers were so severely hurt that they had to be conveyed to the Middlesex Hospital. The following four persons have been detained at the hospital with serious injuries: Collins, broken pelvis; Henry Marshall, forty-six, Warden-road, injury to head; Woodward, fractured ribs; Walter Brown, 3, Grafton-street, injury to head: Wright, with fractured arm, and Bacchus, with injury to shoulder-blade, have been sent home. The omnibus had only been on the road about two months.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT OLYMPIA.

A Russian named David Feldman has met with a shocking accident at Olympia. He was practising double somersaults on the stage prior to the public performance of "The Orient," when he fell on his back, fracturing the spinal column. The injured man, who is paralyzed from the bottom of the chest to the lower extremities, now lies in the West London Hospital at Hammersmith in a precarious condition.

LOSS OF A BRITISH STEAMER.

The British steamer *Dunkeld*, bound from Cardiff for Buenos Ayres with coal, has foundered near Lobos Island. Part of the crew were picked up and landed at Buenos Ayres by the Chargeurs Reunion Line steamer *Portena*. Two of the crew were drowned. The names of the lost are George, third officer, and Frederichsen, steward. The *Portena* has been placed in quarantine. The *Dunkeld* was a steamer of 2,791 tons gross, built at Glasgow in 1880, and owned in London.

ALLEGED PROSELYTISM AT THE AGE OF 105.

The Dublin *Daily Express* states that an extraordinary case came under the notice of the Abbeyleix Board of Guardians yesterday. It is alleged that proselytism has been resorted to in the case of a pauper named Swayne, 105 years of age, who, having lived all his life previously as a Protestant, has now been received into the Roman Catholic church. It was decided to send copies of the complaint, made by the Rev. Brabazon Disney, to the Roman Catholic chaplain and the master, with a request for explanation.

AILING AND CONVALESCENT.

EARL OF PEMBROKE.—Slight improvement.
VISCOUNT CRANBORNE.—Progressing favourably.
SIR HENRY PONSONBY.—Had a much better night, and is considerably easier this morning.
MR. H. H. FOWLER.—Condition very satisfactory.
FIELD-MARSHAL SIR PATRICK GRANT.—Rapidly sinking.
SIR F. SEAGER HUNT.—Progressing favourably.
DR. EYRE.—Has rallied somewhat.

IN THE BANKRUPTCY COURT TO-DAY.

ROBERT STANDISH SIEVIER.

The usual summary was issued in the case of Robert Standish Sievier described as of Bennett-street, St. James's, turf commission agent, but who has stated to the Official Receiver that for the past three years he has had no occupation or income, and that he has no connection or interest in the business of Punch and Co., carried on at 8, Bennett-street. It is reported that the debtor was adjudged bankrupt on September, 1888, and again in May, 1892, and he attributes his present insolvency to liability on a promissory note for £2,300 as surety for an advance to his wife. The accounts show liabilities £2,335, and assets nil.

AN IMPORTANT CHEMICAL DISCOVERY.

A NEW ELEMENT WITH ARGON.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Chemical Society held yesterday the discovery of a new element was announced by Professor Ramsay. After the Faraday medal had been presented to Lord Rayleigh for his work on argon, and suitably acknowledged, the president called upon Professor Ramsay, who made a most important statement. He stated that in his endeavours to discover whether argon combined with any other element he made some experiments with a rare earth that was stated to yield nitrogen on being attacked by sulphuric acid. As he had anticipated, argon was given off and not nitrogen, but mixed with it he found what appeared to be another gas. This gas is no other than the hypothetical helium, whose existence has only been inferred up to the present from a line D3 in the solar spectrum. There is no doubt about the discovery, which was confirmed by Professor Crookes, who gave the wave length of the line (587.47). The discovery was only made a few days ago, and no doubt more about the constitution of the new body will be announced in the course of a few days.

SHOOTING AFFRAY AT A PARIS TERMINUS.

DESPERATE AFFAIR BETWEEN TWO AMERICANS.

The Northern Terminus at Paris was yesterday the scene of a serious shooting affray between two American bookmakers, named O'Brien and Wendel. There had been a dispute over money matters, and as Wendel was leaving by the midday train for England, O'Brien approached him and fired six times, each bullet taking effect, four of the wounds being dangerous. A silver cigar-case deflected a ball which would have pierced the heart, but two bullets entered the wounded man's back, and two his chest. Wendel is now in the Lariboisière Hospital, and O'Brien in the hands of the police.

ACTION FOR DAMAGES BY LADY MANSEL.

THE VALUE OF LARGE TYPE ON A PLAYBILL.

At Liverpool yesterday, before Mr. Justice Lawrance, Lady Mansel, a music-hall artiste, widow of the late Sir Richard Mansel, brought an action for libel against the proprietor of the Park Palace and the Paddington Music Hall, Liverpool. The alleged libel consisted in the changing of Lady Mansel's turns from the premier position on the playbills to the first turn in the first nightly performance, and the last turn in the second nightly performance, the defendant having charged plaintiff with being a failure. This mark of indignity, it was said, her ladyship resented, and on the second week of the engagement Lady Mansel's name was placed in small type at the bottom of the playbill, instead of at the top. Counsel contended that the way in which the artistes' names were published was the life and soul of their reputation. According to the evidence of Messrs. John Hollingshead, Pitt Hardacre, Charles Coborn, and Chirgwin, the changed position of plaintiff's name on the playbills of the second week's engagement necessarily reflected upon Lady Mansel as an artiste, taking into account the fact that the bills in question were circulated among the profession. The jury awarded Lady Mansel £100 damages against the proprietor in respect of the Paddington Music Hall, and £50 in respect of the Park Palace. The printer of the bills and programmes was also sued in connection with the printing, but a verdict was given in his favour.

STRANGE TALE OF A SERVANT'S ROBBERY.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY FORGERY.

Lucy Knight, lately in service at South Kensington, was charged at the Westminster police-court with stealing jewellery and wearing apparel, valued at £140, the property of her mistress, Miss Jennie Elliott; and William Brown, a stableman, was charged with being concerned in the robbery. Knight was entrusted with the keys of her mistress's wardrobe, and for some months past has been continually pledging articles of jewellery at the shop of a Brompton-road pawnbroker. The male prisoner had been living with the woman at her mistress's house, unknown to the latter, and on one occasion was seen carrying away a box. An assistant to Mr. Smith, the pawnbroker with whom the jewellery was pledged, said the woman always brought a note with the various articles, purporting to have been written by her mistress. One of these notes was produced, and after looking at it, the magistrate requested the prosecutrix to come into the witness-box. She did so, and the magistrate, comparing the signatures, commented on their similarity. Knight, however, admitted the forgery, and begged for leniency. Mr. De Rutzen said he could not help feeling sympathy for the woman, and if her statement as to the signing of the notes was true, it was the most extraordinary forgery he ever saw. He was afraid she had been led away by Brown, and she certainly had not been set the best example by her mistress. Brown was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, the woman to one month.

THE RICHMOND CHILD MURDER.

HARROWING SCENE AT THE OLD BAILEY.

Amy Gregory was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday afternoon of the murder of her infant child, whose body was found during the recent cold weather in the Old Deer Park, Richmond. On the jury returning their verdict a most painful scene ensued. In an incoherent speech, broken with sobs, and with blood streaming down her nostrils, the wretched prisoner related that she left the workhouse with her baby, and went to her father's. He would not let her enter, and she then went a weary round with her infant, searching now for work and now for small help from her women acquaintances, one of whom temporarily took her baby from her as it was so cold and hungry—for even the natural sustenance for her infant was lost to this miserable mother. She had herself such pains and such misgivings about getting work that she could not sleep at night, and she again sought succour at home. Her mother spared twopence for food for the baby, her sister could lend her nothing, and her father, with oaths and revilings, as she declared, refused her a crumb of the food which stood on the table. When she was put out into the street she went to a baker's, spent the twopence on biscuits, and provided therewith supper and breakfast for the baby. She ended with a passionate declaration that she had been a good daughter to her father, giving him the last penny out of her pocket when she was at home. The Chaplain then took up his place on the judge's left, the black cap was placed on his lordship's head, and sentence of death was passed. "Oh me! I did not know what I was doing," sobbed the woman. Mr. Avory, the Clerk of Arraigns, himself visibly affected, next had to ask her if there was any reason why the law should not be carried out. She did not know the meaning of this query which is always asked of women under sentence of death, until the wardress explained it. She answered "No," and was taken down to the cells.

ALLEGED BRIBING OF FOOD INSPECTORS.

A serious charge of bribery against inspectors under the Food and Drugs Acts was made yesterday by Mr. J. Hudson, of Hudson Brothers, before the House of Commons Committee on Food Products Adulteration. If the shopkeeper did not put half a sovereign in the scale when the well-known face of the local inspector appeared in his shop, he gave him sixteenpenny butter instead of the tenpenny which he asked for. The Butter Association are stated to have definite information as to how and with whom this bribery is carried on.

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POLITICAL NOTES.

There is nothing to add to what we published yesterday about the Speakership, except to emphasize the statement that if Mr. Gully be now elected the Conservatives will neither re-elect him nor grant him a pension when they come into office. The Government have not pledged themselves to any candidate, although Mr. Gully is favoured, and before the question is settled the preference of the official leaders of the party may be shifted to quite a different candidate.

The decision of the Conservative leaders in favour of according to the Liberal Unionists the right to the Unionist succession in the candidature for Warwick and Leamington has been communicated to Mr. Nelson, the Conservative candidate, and his agent. But the question is not believed by them to be finally settled, and further representations are to be made to the Conservative Central Office. Mr. John Fell, who has been asked to contest the seat for the Ministerialists, is taking time to consider the matter, and is awaiting events. He is in London, as also are Mr. George Peel and Mr. Nelson.

Mr. A. J. Balfour was invited to preside at a dinner of the Political Economy Circle of the National Liberal Club, held last evening, but he could not conveniently accept the invitation. Sir W. Houldsworth, M.P., took his place in the chair at the dinner and at the subsequent discussion on the monetary situation. Mr. Balfour, in writing to Mr. J. H. Levy, the secretary of the Circle, expressed satisfaction that the subject was one which was engaging the attention of those interested in public affairs, and he added, "I fear that hard necessity may soon compel politicians on both sides of the House to consider the question with an open mind—not a very easy thing to do in relation to a subject which can only be approached over dry and difficult ground."

The deputation of vintners and distillers from Ireland which waited on the Anti-Parnellite party on Tuesday held a meeting yesterday at the Charing-cross Hotel, and expressed dissatisfaction at the absence of any promise from the party or any of its leaders to take up the question of the extra duty on spirits. It was agreed to make further representations to Mr. Justin McCarthy, with the view of putting pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abate the tax.

Whips have been issued to the members of the Radical and Anti-Parnellite parties in the House of Commons for Friday evening, when Mr. J. H. Dalziel will move, and Mr. Lloyd-George will second, the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House, in order to give speedier and fuller effect to the special desires and wants of the respective nationalities constituting the United Kingdom, and in order to increase the efficiency of the Imperial Parliament in dealing with Imperial affairs, it is desirable to devolve on legislative assemblies in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England respectively the management and control of their domestic affairs."

SINGULAR ACTION FOR DAMAGES.

ALLEGED LIBEL IN A SERMON.

An action of considerable interest to political and other clubs was heard yesterday at the Liverpool assizes before Justice Lawrance and a special jury. The plaintiffs are the Junior Reform Club, and the defendant the Rev. John Wakeford, who recently succeeded the present Bishop of Norwich as vicar of St. Margaret's, Anfield, Liverpool. The plaintiffs claim damages for slander uttered by the defendant in a sermon in his church on January 6 last, in which he implied that the club was a common gambling pit or hell; that excessive drinking went on in it, and that generally it was a disreputable nuisance. The defence is that the plaintiff did not use the words referred to; that his words did not bear the meaning attributed to them; that the words if spoken were true, and that the occasion on which they were used was privileged. At the close of the plaintiff's case the defendant withdrew the charges and apologized, and a verdict was entered for the plaintiffs.

BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

SMALL DAMAGES FOR A BROKEN HEART.

The proverbial slip 'twixt the cup and the lip was again illustrated yesterday in Mr. Justice Grantham's Court, when Miss Harriet Halsey, a tie maker, brought an action for breach of promise against Alexander Anderson, a post-office sorter. The promise of marriage was admitted, but the defence for the breach was a plea that the defendant had been released from it. The plaintiff stated that two years ago the wedding day was fixed, and the ceremony was to occur on September 8, 1894. A few days before the wedding was to take place he wrote to her that all correspondence must cease, and the wedding would not take place. When asked for an explanation he refused to give one. The day after she received the letter defendant said he had been up to Hampstead to drown himself, but he said nothing about plaintiff having released him from his promise. She wrote to the defendant to the effect that if she had done anything wrong she hoped he would forgive her, and asked him before he asked another girl to be his wife

TO ASCERTAIN HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS THE GIRL.

In reply defendant wrote to plaintiff:—"You will always remain the same to me till we meet in heaven," and stating that he intended to live a life for a higher power than he had hitherto done, adding, "I am getting thin and wasting away gradually." Alexander Stuart Anderson, the defendant said, in September, 1894, he had engaged rooms for himself and plaintiff to pass their honeymoon in. At the time he and plaintiff discussed the question as to having two or three rooms the plaintiff got angry and said that he wished her to do her hair on the landing. Defendant contradicted most of the evidence given for the plaintiff, and stated that she had released him. Cross-examined: He had been going out with another girl, but irregularly. The jury found for the plaintiff, and assessed the damages at £5.

THE LEGAL MUSICAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

The "ladies' night" of the Legal Musical Society, a body embracing the clerks of the judges of the High Courts and of the leading barristers, and many of the officials of both the civil and the criminal courts, was held last night at the Freemasons' Tavern. An excellent programme was carried out under the direction of Messrs. G. Egerton Wright-Merion, G. Woodward, and the general arrangements of the evening were admirably made by the hon. secs. of the society, Messrs. E. Herspath and Walter H. Smead.

THIS MORNING'S WEATHER REPORT.

At 9.0.—Barmouth, cold, wet morning, W., sea rough; Aberystwyth, W., stormy, sea very rough; Margate and Ramsgate, temp. 45, S., fine; Herne Bay, S.W., fine; Dover, S.W., fresh, cloudy, sea moderate probable passage moderate; Hawkhurst, cloudy, stormy, strong breeze, S.W.; Bournemouth, S.W., fine; Devenport, W., rain; Ilfracombe, W., wet; Portsmouth, N.W., moderate, fine; Plymouth, W., stormy; Southampton, S.W., stormy, Weymouth, S.W., stormy; Norwich, fine, S.; Cromer, fine, S.W.; Lowestoft, S.W., strong breeze, blue sky, Ipswich, Colchester, Harwich, Southwold, fine; Bury, fine, strong wind; Newmarket, Cambridge, Ely, Lynn, Peterborough, fine; Brighton, W.S.W., fine, some clouds, sea rough, 43; Eastbourne, S.W., fine, calm 51; Hastings, S.W., fine morning, calm, 52; Worthing, W.S.W., fine, some clouds, moderate, 46; Folkestone, S.W., fine, sea rough.

The following forecast was issued at 11 A.M. to-day:—South England (with London and Channel).—South-westerly winds, strong; a gale on coast; squally; showery.

TO-MORROW'S MAILS AND SHIP LETTERS.

MAILS TO BE DESPATCHED.—Morning: To West Coast of Africa via Liverpool (parcel mails). Evening: To Egypt, Cyprus, Beyrout, India, &c., via Brindisi; to Ceylon, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South and West Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, &c., via Naples; to Ceylon, Singadore, China, and Japan by French packet; to Grand Canary and West Coast of Africa, via Liverpool; to Bahamas (parcel mails).

MAILS DUE.—None.

PRIVATE SHIP LETTERS.—The *Bengal*, from London for Gibraltar; the *Hauna*, *Sultan*, *Flamingo*, or *Sprite*, from Hull for Hamburg; the *Angelo* or *Montebello*, from Hull for Christiania and Christiansand; the *Prosper* or *Odin*, from South Shields for Arendal and Christiania; the ——, from Southampton for Havre.

Pall Mall Gazette Office,

16, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.

The Queen opened a charity sale of work at Nice yesterday, and afterwards inspected the 24th Chasseurs on the sea front.

The Princess of Wales, with the Princesses Victoria and Maud, arrived at Marlborough House yesterday. The Princess and her daughters dined with the Duke and Duchess of York last evening.

The Queen Regent of the Netherlands, and her daughter, Queen Wilhelmina, are to be the guests of the Duchess of Albany at Claremont Park when they come to England shortly after Easter, and they will stay in this country for about a fortnight.

The Duke of Norfolk will speak at the annual meeting of the Marylebone Habitation of the Primrose League at the Portman Rooms on April 30.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bute, who have been residing during the last two months at Dumfries House, Ayrshire, left that place on Tuesday for Falkland House, Fifeshire, where they will stay until the end of next month, when they are coming to town for the season.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bristol are just now staying at Brighton, where they are residing at their house in Kemp Town.

Lord and Lady de Ramsey, who are staying at the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough's house in Grosvenor-square, will leave town next week for Ramsey Abbey, their seat in Hunts.

Lord and Lady Ilchester have arrived in Paris from Cannes on their way to London, and are staying at the Hotel du Rhin.

Lord and Lady Brassey have arranged for the nineteenth anniversary meeting of the Bethnal Green Free Library to take place at Park-lane early next month.

Lady Dufferin is expected in England to-day, and has given notice that the usual weekly reception at the Embassy in Paris will not take place.

The new Baroness Gray (who has inherited her title from the late Earl of Moray) is the only daughter of the late Lady Jane Stuart, by her second husband, Captain Lonsdale Pounden, of Brownswood, county Wexford. She is married to Mr. J. M. Smith, of Hazelgreen, Lancashire, and has five grown-up sons and daughters. She does not succeed to the Gray estates, which have, since 1878, been owned by Mrs. E. A. Stuart-Gray, now fifteenth Earl of Moray. She will, however, inherit the bulk of the late Earl's personal estate. Her title is the second of the Scottish baronies, ranking after that of Forbes, and before that of Saltoun.

Dr. Sandford, Bishop of Gibraltar, and Mrs. Sandford, left the Piræus yesterday for Smyrna, whence they will proceed to Constantinople, Odessa, and Bucharest, and visit Cannes on the way home.

Canon Brooke, the well-known and very popular rector of Bath, has just resumed his duties at the Abbey Church, after having passed the winter at Bournemouth. Canon Brooke was presented to the rectory of Bath just twenty years ago by the Simeon Trustees, on the death of the Rev. Charles Kemble.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone dined with Mr. Arnold Morley at Stratton-street, Piccadilly, last evening. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone will remain in town until to-morrow, when they propose to fulfil their intention to visit Lincoln.

The funeral of the Duchess of Leinster took place at Carton, Maynooth, yesterday, in the private burial ground of the Leinster family. Viscount Charlemont represented the Queen, and the Prince of Wales sent a large wreath of orchids and white flowers, with which was a card bearing the message: "From H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, as a mark of sincere regret."

By the death of the Hon. Walter Stuart, Master of Blantyre, his uncle, the Hon. Sir William Stuart, only surviving brother of the present peer, becomes heir presumptive to the barony of Blantyre. Sir William, who was born in 1824, retired in 1878 from the Diplomatic Service, in which he spent over thirty years. For his services as Protocolist to the Conference on American treaties, which sat in London in 1871, he was nominated a C.B., and was made a K.C.M.G. in 1886.

The Master of Blantyre had a romantic career. The only son of Lord Blantyre, and grandson of the second Duke of Sutherland, he never went into "society," but devoted himself from his youth to a country life in the Highlands. He took a large sheep-farm in the Rogart district of Sutherland from his uncle the late Duke, and was very successful in the rearing of Cheviots. The Master of Blantyre removed some years ago from Rogart (where he had achieved a unique popularity) to Glenelg, where he had another extensive farm, and he was greatly beloved by all classes of his neighbours. The Master of Blantyre died unmarried.

Prince Radolin, whose transference from the German Embassy at Constantinople to that at Berlin seems to provoke adverse comments in the Russian press, is really a native of Posen, though of Polish extraction, and originally known as Prince Radolinsky. He entered diplomacy rather late in life under the auspices of Prince Bismarck, having previously resided in Berlin as a private gentleman, with his wife, a lady of Eastern birth.

M. Mijatovitch, the new Servian Minister to the Court of St. James's, was introduced to Lord Kimberley at the Foreign Office yesterday by the Servian *chargé d'affaires*. M. Mijatovitch was himself the Servian *chargé d'affaires* here at the time of the Bulgarian and Servian war.

It must have been urgent business that necessitated the personal attendance of Rustem Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, at the Foreign Office yesterday, for the aged diplomatist was so weak that he had to be assisted in and out of his carriage by Morel Bey, the First Secretary to the Embassy. Other visitors to the Foreign Secretary yesterday were the Spanish, Austrian, German, Italian, and Russian Ambassadors, and the Portuguese *chargé d'affaires*.

Sir Henry Loch, late Governor of Cape Colony and High Commissioner for South Africa, left Cape Town for Plymouth yesterday, on the Union steamer *Mexican*.

Colonel Colville, who was sent to Uganda by the British Government two years ago, arrived in London yesterday and paid a visit to the Foreign Office.

Mr. Scott Elliot has, notwithstanding the numerous difficulties he experienced during the latter part of his journey in Africa, brought home a very fine collection—about 3,000 specimens—of dried plants from Ruwenzori.

Rear-Admiral John W. Whyte, upon whom a Greenwich Hospital pension of £150 a year has been conferred, entered the Royal Navy in 1832. He was mate of the *Powerful* at Acre in 1840, and received the medal. He was officially mentioned and promoted for the capture of Chin-kiang-foo when mate of the *Cornwallis*, and was twice severely wounded during operations in the River Plate in 1845. He was senior Lieutenant of the *Queen* during the attack on the sea defences and the blockade of Sebastopol in 1854-55, when he received the Crimean and Turkish medals, the Sebastopol clasp, and the Knighthood of the Legion of Honour.

Colonel J. C. Russell, who has been raised to the rank of major-general, was born in 1839, and obtained his commission in the 11th Light Dragoons in 1860. During the Ashanti war in 1873-4 he was present at the battles of Amoafil, Ordasha, Becquah, and at the capture of Coomassie. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp. In the South African war of 1878-9, he took part in the operations against Sekukuni, and in the Zulu campaign. He was four times mentioned in despatches and received the medal with clasp. Since 1878 he has been an extra equerry to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

To-day is the seventy-fourth birthday of that *doyen* of war correspondents, Dr. William Howard Russell. He commenced his connection with the *Times* in 1843, and represented that paper during the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the American War of 1861-2, the Austro-Prussian War, and the Franco-German War.

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SPORTING NOTES AND NEWS.

FROM CLUB AND COURSE.

Mr. C. G. Duff, the owner of Cloister, has forwarded to the *Sportsman* a letter from Mr. Bond, F.R.C.S., the eminent toxicologist, of which the main points are that he had examined the horse's skin very minutely, and could find no trace of puncture or swelling, such as a subcutaneous injection would cause. The horse was neither ill nor diseased, only jaded, listless, and overdone. The fall had been caused by congestion of the brain, such as would occur after the administration of a narcotic poison, but it had been known to happen to a horse that was simply overdone. The fall was due to congestion of the brain, which, when he saw Cloister two days after, he could attribute to nothing but natural causes.

The cautious tone of the letter by no means excludes alternative theories. It is a sort of not proven verdict. Mr. Duff purposes continuing the inquiry, and the last may not yet have been heard of this disastrous break-down of Cloister. That of last year most people made up their minds about long ago. Mr. Duff is a heavy loser, and it is regarded as particularly hard that on so good and straightforward a sportsman these repeated mistortunes should fall.

The subject of payments to masters of hounds is at present a burning question of the hour, and it is interesting to note the following list of resignations of masters of hounds, which take effect at the termination of this hunting season. The number (thirty) of masters resigning is quite unprecedented — the cause, without exception, want of subscriptions, together with the diminution of gentlemen who have hitherto placed their services and time at the disposal of the various hunts, to find money out of their own pockets for other people's amusement.

Where the committee and members of a hunt can only find a certain amount they will now have to be content with getting such sport as that sum will pay for and no more. The time is gone when a hunt finding, say, £1,500 expects four days a week sport, with hounds, servants, and horses turned out equal to a pack paid with £5,000 a year subscription. The sooner hunting men and the committees of hunts take this fact seriously to heart the better for sport in general. No fewer than thirty masters have tendered their resignation so far, and we fear some more are still to come in. The following are the names of the packs concerned in the resignations:—

Atherstone, Badsworth, Berkeley Old (West), Craven, Captain Spicers, Eskdale, Essex Union, Eastbourne, Eggesford, FitzWilliam, Goodwood, Holderness, Haydon, Limerick, Llanburran, Linlithgow and Sutherland, Ledbury, Newmarket Thurloe, North Worfold, North Hereford, Oakley, Radnorshire and West Hereford, Stevenstone, South Durham, South and West Wilts, Wexford, Wynnstay, West Westmeath, Devon and Somerset Staghounds, Surrey Farmers Staghounds.

Mr. Stoddart's English team stand, up to date, with a full score of seven wins to four losses, with one match—South Australia—to finish. A success in the last match would be welcome, as in the seven matches won are included two against Queensland (aided by some N.S.W. men on the second time of asking), which is the weakest of the colonies; while, further, the first reverse of the four occurred on the South Australian ground and in the very first match.

A rather intemperate but amusing letter appears in a contemporary, the writer describing himself as "a staunch Englishman and an enthusiastic cricketer," who "feels a quasi-disgust at the cricket he has seen in Sydney." The first of the four test-matches was, he assures us, presented to us by that unfortunate and much-cursed divinity, Jupiter Pluvius. But he forgets to state how much our friend's wrath was increased in consequence of the same deity's "gentle shafts." We won the second match, he says, by 99 runs only—"nothing to boast of. In the third match, "on a splendid wicket and in fine weather, the Australians gave us a sound thrashing," which nobody can deny. "In the fourth," he says, "granting that Stoddart made a fatal mistake, the result would not have been so bad had the Englishmen only fielded up to the standard of a freshman at Eton or Harrow. But to see catch after catch muffed, after five wickets had gone down for a mere nothing, made some of us disgusted." Poor "Oxonian" has feathered the arrow that gives the death-wound—witness "a fatal mistake" and "five wickets for a mere nothing."

Our fielding certainly lost us a great deal, but had not our friend Jupiter Pluvius a say in the matter? We think so, and would further like to know what "a freshman at Eton or Harrow" is, unless those two august seminaries of cricket and classics have borrowed a University phrase and applied it to what is generally known as a "new boy."

YACHTING AT NICE.

NICE, March 27.—It was not until a late hour that the official times for the finish in to-day's yacht race were forthcoming. From these it will be seen that the victory of *Britannia* was even more decisive than the unofficial record indicated, the times for the three yachts being: *Britannia*, 3 h. 43 min. 52 sec.; *Aline*, 4 h. 1 min. 3 sec. *Valkyrie* 5 h. 15 min. 20 sec.—*Central News*

FOOTBALL.

GENTLEMEN v. PLAYERS AT NOTTINGHAM.

Only three Association matches under this title have been played. Each side has gained a victory, and the third match was drawn. In none of the games was either side really representative, and therefore the match at Nottingham to-day may be said to be the first genuine trial of strength between the amateurs and paid players. Unfortunately, even now the Gentlemen have not been able to put their best side into the field, for the vacancies caused by the absence of that prince of half-backs, C. Wreford-Brown, and of A. G. Topham cannot be adequately filled. But still, if the ground be in fair condition the amateurs will most probably render a good account of themselves, and possibly they may win, although their recent performances would tend to show that they are not now in such good form as they were earlier in the season. The sides are:—

PROFESSIONALS.—J. W. Sutcliffe (Bolton), goal; Crabtree (Burnley) and Williams (West Bromwich Albion), backs; Reynolds (Aston Villa), Holt (Everton), and Needham (Sheffield Wednesday), half-backs; Bassett (Albion) and Bloomer (Derby), right wing; Goodall (Derby), centre; Smith (Aston Villa) and Chadwick (Everton), left wing.

AMATEURS.—G. B. Raikes (Oxford), goal; L. V. Lodge (Cambridge) and W. J. Oakley (Oxford), backs; G. Heathcote (Corinthians), F. M. Ingram (Old Wykehamists), and E. F. Buzzard (Old Carthusians), half-backs; G. P. Dewhurst (Corinthians) and R. C. Gosling (Old Etonians), right wing; G. O. Smith (Old Carthusians), centre; R. R. Sandilands (Old Westminsters) and F. Street (Old Westminsters), left wing.

Referee: Lieutenant Simpson.

MORNING GALLOPS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL HORSES.

It was anything but pleasant at Aintree this morning, as rain and hail alternately fell. Still there was a fair muster to witness the gallops of the Grand National horses, and plenty of work was got through. The first to appear were Gatland's pair, Wild Man from Borneo and Father O'Flynn. Both looked well, and after a bout of walking exercise the former went twice round the flat race course at a nice pace, pulling up sound and well. Father O'Flynn galloped three miles at half speed in nice style. Æsop (Parker up) and Van der Berg (ridden by a stable lad) had a good gallop of nearly three miles. Leybourne (Williamson) and Why Not (Penton) had a good gallop over the same distance, and the impression made by the former was highly favourable. Prince Albert (Mr. Cullen riding) went three miles steadily, and similar work was done by Fin-ma-Cool, ridden by C. Cathal, Cathal leading him at a good pace with Scott up. Cathal looked particularly well, and gave general satisfaction. Manifesto and Cock of the Heath had a nice three-mile gallop, both pulling up well, but the Danebury pair, Horizon and Royal Buck, only went a mile twice at a steady pace; both, however, looked fit and well. Champion led Lady Pat (ridden by Shanahan) two miles at about three parts speed, the mare pleasing the spectators. Sarah Bernhardt was restricted to mile-work, and Soarer went about twice the distance. The only other Grand National candidate seen out was Molly Magnire, who had a good-paced gallop of three miles and a quarter. All the favourites gave satisfaction, and the race is generally admitted to be a most open one.

ADDITIONAL ARRIVALS AT LIVERPOOL.

Chekoa, Arctic, Julia Manning f, La Reine, Splendour, El Diablo, Lesterlin, St. Reine, Norseman, Tommy Dodd, Castle Loch, Victor I., Queen Monmouth, Link Girl f., Golden Blaze, Bramsdale, Clairvoyant, Rubicano, Aberdeen II, Black Oak, Sandfly g., Duwager, Grip Fast f., Negative, Nostrum, Chat Moss, Rugby, Comicut, Satirical, Prince Simon, Boxer, Santa Caterina, Diavolo, Spider King, Tommy Tittlemouse.

TO READERS ABSENT FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY RESIDENTS

Readers, temporarily absent from town and country residents, may have the SPECIAL EDITION of the PALL MALL GAZETTE, containing the LATEST NEWS, sent to ANY ADDRESS within the UNITED KINGDOM, for delivery by the first post on the following morning at the rate of NINEPENCE PER WEEK, or ONE SHILLING PER WEEK to ANY ADDRESS upon the CONTINENT.

MR. STODDART'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

THE LAST MATCH.

THE GAME STOPPED BY A BAD LIGHT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

(PER THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S CABLE.)

ADELAIDE, Thursday.—The last match of the very successful tour of Mr. Stoddart's team was commenced here to-day, in the form of the return game with South Australia. It is somewhat unfortunate that the English captain, who has played in such brilliant style all through the tour, should be unable to take part in the last match. But while in Tasmania he was very ill, and since then has not been in the field. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to state that Mr. Stoddart is now much better, and that he is recovering slowly but surely.

Humphreys was the other absentee, and Mr. Philipson captained the team, but was not fortunate in winning the toss from Giffen.

The conditions were all in favour of a good game. The weather was fine, and what appeared like a perfect wicket had been secured. There was a large crowd, many people having come over from Melbourne to see the last match.

Lyons and Arthur Jarvis went first to the wickets, and were opposed by Peel and Richardson.

The Englishmen made a very fine start. Richardson was in splendid form, and set up the colonial bats in a surprising manner.

He got Lyons caught and clean bowled Jarvis and Darling, three wickets being down for 45 runs.

Then George Giffen and Reedman got together and a change came over the game. The captain played steadily and with much caution while Reedman hit out in dashing style, and when the luncheon interval was taken they were still together with the score at 90 for three wickets.

After lunch the men continued to play brilliantly, but at 113 Reedman was finely run out. Two other wickets quickly fell, Briggs disposing of Dyer with his third ball, and Richardson getting Blinman caught at cover-point.

Then after he had been at the wickets for two hours playing fine cricket all the time and giving nothing like a chance Giffen was caught in the country off Briggs.

Seven wickets were down for 137 runs, but another stand was then made, Hill and Walter Giffen carrying the score on rapidly.

These two men showed really admirable form, Hill especially hitting in fine free style. His performance brought out all the more enthusiasm as to-day is his eighteenth birthday, a fact which was well known on the ground.

Giffen at the other end played a steady game, with nothing like the dash of his colleague, but his innings was nevertheless a most useful one.

After five o'clock the light became very bad, and got so much worse that at half-past the umpires stopped the game, and stumps were drawn.

The following is the full score of the day:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—First Innings.

J. J. Lyons, c Peel, b Richardson	6
A. D. Jarvis, b Richardson	5
J. Darling, b Richardson	15
G. Giffen, c MacIlree, b Briggs	51
J. E. Reedman, run out	48
Dyer, b Briggs	0
Blinman, c Peel, b Richardson	3
Hill, not out	63
W. Giffen, not out	25
Extras	8
Total	232

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REMARKS.

"I think it very useful. "R. RUTLAND, Master of Belvoir Hounds."

ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

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ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

"I have much pleasure in recommending your Royal Embrocation. I always keep a stock in my stables and kennels. My farm bailiff has also found it of much value among my horses." "WM. J. BOCKLEY, Master Carmarthen-shire Foxhounds."

ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

"Bluefields, Penn., Jamaica, "Feb. 14th, 1894. "Have used your embrocation in my stables and found it superior to anything I ever used for sores, bruises, and all the effects were all I could wish; and in my cases for sore throats, which made desperate." "ANGUS C. KENNEDY."

ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

"Tandem Stables, Evesham, Worcs. "April 6th, 1893. "It will give me pleasure I carry to the quality of your embrocation. I have used it with success when other remedies failed, and I can never be without it. "R. J. PERRY-KNOX."

ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

"Sulzdorf a/d., Germany. "June 14th, 1893. "I beg to inform you that the Royal Embrocation has been very efficacious by using it for the bruises of my retriever, and I beg you to send again twenty-five bottles." "Lt.-Col. BERNE, "2d Dragoon Regt."

ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION

"Southern Cross, Western Australia, "Sept. 19, 1894. "All the carriers on the track from here to Coolgardie say Elliman's the best horse embrocation they ever used. Not a team starts without a supply. It is selling very rapidly." "JOHN CHADWICK, Chemist, "Southern Cross, W.A."

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BEECHAM'S PILLS. Are the Best Medicine for Female Complaints.

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TWO SUPPLEMENTS, consisting of TWO COLOURED PLATES by E. J. SULLIVAN and L. RAVEN HILL, are issued with This Week's

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THE COSTER'S BARROW. By L. RAVEN HILL.

"GOOD-BYE." Full-page Illustration by LEWIS BAUMER.

GRATITUDE. Full-page Illustration by G. R. HALKETT.

MRS. MEYNELL. Full-page Illustration from a Drawing by J. S. SARGENT, A.R.A.

A FAMOUS TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT. With Portraits.

THE REMARKABLE CASE OF DAVIDSON'S EYES. By H. G. WELLS. Illustrated by A. S. HARTRICK.

FLEET STREET ECLOGUE: MAY DAY. By JNO. DAVIDSON.

A MOTH GENUS NOVO. By H. G. WELLS. Illustrated by A. BIRKENREUTH.

AT HOME: A WOMAN'S LAST WORD.

DRAWING ROOMS, PAST AND PRESENT. Illustrated from Old Prints.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DRIVING THROUGH THE PARK. Full-page Illustration from a Drawing by C. M. SHELDON.

MASKS AND FACES. By WILLIAM ARCHER.

IN LIGHTER VEIN:

WHEN IN DOUBT—JUMP. Illustrated by F. H. TOWNSEND.

WANTED, A GIRL. Illustration by PHIL MAY.

LIGHT EXERCISE. Illustration by PHIL MAY.

DRUNK AS A LORD. Illustration by L. BAUMER.

ON THE SAFE SIDE. Illustration by L. RAVEN HILL.

"GOOD-NIGHT!" Illustration by ST. CLAIR SIMMONS.

THE MEET. Illustration in Colour from the Picture by G. D. ARMOUR.

AN OLD HAND. Illustration in Colour from a Drawing by G. D. ARMOUR.

"THE BOOMERANG." By Mrs. OSCAR BERINGER. Illustrated by MAURICE GREIFFENHAGEN.

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M'PHAIL AND SIMPSONS' DRY STEAM PATENTS COMPANY (LIMITED),
(Incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL ££10,000, divided into 15,000 6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, £1,000 Deferred Shares of £1 each, and 8,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £10 each, the latter shares being taken by the Vendors in part payment of their purchase-money.

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Interest, at the rate of £5 per cent. will be payable on all calls paid in advance.

DIRECTORS.

Edward Simpson, Esq., J.P., of Walton Hall, Wakefield.
Charles Henry Simpson, Esq., of Moor Top House, Ackworth, Yorks.
Hugh M'Phail, Esq., The Towers, Wakefield.
James Wigglesworth, Esq., Combined House, Wakefield.

And two other directors to be elected by the shareholders at the first ordinary general meeting of the company.

BANKERS.

Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard-street, London.
Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bank, Limited.

BROKERS.

LONDON—W. H. L. Bassett and Co., 28, Threadneedle-street.
MANCHESTER—Newburn and Barker, 13, Pall Mall.
LEEDS—John Rodmayne and Co.
GLASGOW—Mackenzie and Aitken.

SOLICITORS, Solicitors and Heirs.

AUDITORS.—Price, Waterhouse, and Co., 41, Lombard-street, London.

SECRETARY.—Mr. Foyle, Esq., 9, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street, London.

REGISTERED OFFICE.—Calder Works, Wakefield.

PROSPECTUS.

The company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the business, plant, work, royalties, goodwill, and patents (United Kingdom and foreign) of Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons, which for many years patents are insistent in number.

Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons have, by experiments extending over five years, and by practical working, perfected a method for producing dry and superheated steam at a comparatively inexpensive rate, and by independent engineers on different boilers, in various works in the United Kingdom, shown an average saving of 20 per cent. in the consumption of coal according to the conditions and type of boiler. In other cases, where the boilers are defective, three Lancashire boilers fitted with Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons' apparatus have done the work of four similar boilers when not combined with their system.

The attention of theoretical and practical engineers has been for nearly half a century engaged in trying to obtain an arrangement by which dry and superheated steam could be produced, principally for its application in the generation of power, without danger and waste, but all attempts hitherto have failed, as the results arising from the inevitable temperatures, resulting in extreme and dangerous heat and condensation alternately. Important improvements in the economy in the production of steam have been introduced by feed-water heating apparatus, the best known and most effective being Green's Economiser, and, as is well known, these improvements have commanded considerable success.

The steam hitherto produced for engine purposes has remained saturated, with all its attendant evils, for in the ordinary steam power, only the fuel that is expected from the increase of boiler pressure has been of late years utilised, and with much greater waste and cylinder condensation have not been prevented by the high pressures, but are present, and considerably more than counterbalance the improvements effected in power.

Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons, by a very simple device and arrangement, have perfected a method whereby steam is produced with much greater economy than hitherto, and at the same time it is delivered to the engine in a condition very much superheated as may be desirable for all practical engine purposes.

Hitherto steam has left the generator at a temperature normal to its pressure, whereas by M'Phail and Simpsons' method it is produced at a higher temperature from that normal to the pressure in the generator to 150 deg. superheat, or more as may be required, and at the same time the pressure is maintained with the pressure in the generator.

The distinguishing characteristics of Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons' apparatus from all previous designs and arrangements for the purpose of producing dry steam is that the steam produced in the generator passes through the superheaters, where it is heated to a higher degree, and then it passes in pipes through the generator where it parts with a portion of its superheated heat, which is again distilled to further evaporate the water in the generator economising by a saving of fuel.

This process of passing the steam through the superheaters and afterwards through the generator may be repeated more than once, but in practice two times is found sufficient. The heat from the flues passed into the chamber in the lower division and direct upon the tubes by the steam from the superheaters (which are constructed of thin tubes of small diameters), instead of heating the outer shell, which is the usual method, is retained.

It becomes impossible by a proper proportion and arrangement in the generator for the superheat produced to exceed the combustible temperature of superheat.

No one need, therefore, be entertained of injury to an engine by the adoption of an apparatus for superheating. This is a most important advantage, as it is impossible to supply dry steam without the question of packing and lubrication, which has been the most difficult to overcome.

The patentees claim that by the adoption of their apparatus a perfect dry steam of greatly increased power can be produced, and that the fuel used for the completion of fuel, and that the apparatus can be applied to existing boilers with but little trouble. No extra valves or additional mechanical labour is required, and the present circulation and pressure are maintained throughout the boiler, which prevent straining from unequal expansion and contraction, and adds considerably to the boiler's economy. Priming is absolutely impossible.

These results are not merely attested by the investigations and reports of some of the most eminent practical mechanical engineers and boiler inspectors in the United Kingdom; but the practical value of the invention is shown by the fact that, in addition to the many orders already received by the public, orders have been received exceeding the productive arrangements of the patentees, and the apparatus is being prepared for, or fixed in, some of the largest and most extensively arranged manufactories in Great Britain and France.

The following list is of some leading works where similar M'Phail and Simpsons apparatus has recently been supplied:—

Bradford	.....	James Drummond and Sons (Limited), Lumbladane.
	"	Daniel Illingworth and Sons, Worsted Spinners.
	"	Henry Illingworth and Sons, Worsted Spinners.
	"	Legrams Mills.
	"	Isaac Smith, Allerton Mills.
	"	John Smith and Son (Limited), Heaton Royd Mills.
Bramley	.....	W. E. Yates (Limited).
Halifax	.....	Jesse Hoyle and Sons, Rowe Mills.
Glasgow	.....	The Hyndhrook Printing Co., (Limited).
	"	Thomas Hoyle and Sons, Eldon Bayde Mills.
Halifax	.....	Joan Holdsworth and Sons (Limited).
	"	Thomas Hoyle and Sons, Sowerby Bridge Mills and Triangle Mills.
	"	Robert Robinson, Worsted Manufacturer.
	"	T. Tidy and Co., Brighouse.
Laisteraike	.....	W. and J. Whitehead, Wool Spinners and Manufacturers.
Liverpool	.....	Henry Tate and Sons, Sugar Refiners.
London	.....	1, Charing Cross and Strand Electric Supply Corporation (Limited).
Manchester (near)	.....	Whitworth and Co. (Limited), Spinners.
Middlethian	.....	James Brown and Co. (Limited), Penicuik, Paper Makers.
Newcastle	.....	84, Clyde-road, Jesmond, 4,000 tons, H.W.
Oldham (near)	.....	The Lees Spinning Co. (Limited), Royton, Cotton Spinners.
St Mary Cray	.....	William Dawson and Sons, Paper Makers.
Saltaire	.....	Sir Titus Salt, Bart., Sons and Co., Limited.
Spain, Barcelona		Catalan Worsted Spinning Co.
Stockport	.....	Peter Redfern and Co.
Wakefield	.....	R. H. Barker and Co. (Limited), Worsted Manufacturers.
	"	Joseph Hepworth and Son, Manufacturers.

Orders are now in hand for the following firms, including several repeat orders for fixing the apparatus in additional boilers:—

Barnsley	.....	Thos. Taylor and Sons, Linen Manufacturers.
Bradford	.....	Daniel Illingworth and Sons, Worsted Mills.
	"	John Smith and Sons (Limited), Fitchford Mills.
Brumley	.....	W. E. Yates (Limited), Cloth Manufacturers.
France, Croix and Iman		Iman Holden et Fils.
Halifax	.....	John Holdsworth and Sons (Limited).
Leeds	.....	The Kirkstall Forge Company (Limited).
Liverpool and London	.....	Henry Tate and Sons, Sugar Refiners.
London	.....	The Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation (Limited).
Manchester	.....	D. Crawford and Co., Bleachers and Dyers.
Manchester	.....	The Clayton Bleaching Co.
Morley	.....	Hudson, Sykes and Boswell, Cloth Manufacturers.
Saltaire	.....	Sir Titus Salt, Baris, Sons and Co., Limited.
Wakefield	.....	Hepworth and Simpson, Soap Manufacturers.
Wellington	.....	Fox, Brothers and Co., Cloth Manufacturers.

The price at which the apparatus have hitherto supplied and fitted the apparatus is £150, which includes the cost of manufacture. The income of the company will arise from the royalties which they may make upon the manufacture of the apparatus, but at present only at the rate of 10s. per horse-power upon the apparatus which they have fixed at a uniform sum of £5 per horse-power per annum, varying in amount according to the size and character of the boilers.

The following table, which is based upon actual tests of working, shows the amount which is saved in coal each year in the case of boilers fitted with boiler, 7 ft. diameter by 30 ft. long, and burning 10 lbs. coal per square foot of grate surface, which is about 1,161 tons per year of fifty weeks of fifty-six days each, assuming, as is proved to be the case, that by the application of Messrs. M'Phail and Simpsons' Patent, 20 per cent. is saved in the consumption of coal:—

With coal at 7s. 6d. per ton, the saving would be £1,741 0s. 0d. per annum per boiler.
With coal at 10s. per ton the saving would be £2,152 1s. per annum per boiler.
With coal at 15s. per ton the saving would be £3,274 1s. per annum per boiler.
With coal at 20s. per ton the saving would be £4,365 10s. per annum per boiler.

These figures are fully borne out by the actual saving effected in the Calder Works, Wakefield, K. H. Barker and Co.'s works where the apparatus has been longest at work, the saving has been at the rate of £2,254 per annum in the case of one boiler which has been working over 37 months. The cost will thus be seen that the saving on one bill in the first year would in any ordinary case cover the expense, not merely of the whole of the boiler, but also the entire cost of fitting the apparatus.

In calculating an estimate of the anticipated income of the company, the directors cannot of course point to any ascertained figures arising from the application of the patents, as no royalties have yet been received, but the figures previously published by the boiler insurance companies both in the United States and in the United Kingdom, have been estimated that, excluding boilers in the navy and mercantile marine, there are about 200,000 fixed boilers in this country, and an even larger number of fixed boilers in the United States.

Assuming only one per cent. of the above estimate of 200,000 fixed boilers in this country were fitted per annum, at an average royalty of £50 per boiler, this would give at once and early date a gross income of £500,000, increasing each year during the life of the patents by the same amount.

The directors are of opinion that the profits made by the company on the manufacture of the apparatus for boilers to charged will more than cover the necessary working expenses, leaving the revenue from royalties and interest accruing the fund available for the payment of dividend.

This estimate, which assumes that during the next 12 years the apparatus will be fixed to 24,000 boilers only, would show a very handsome pecuniary result. Green's Economisers have been fitted in connection with over 130,000 boilers, and as M'Phail and Simpsons' apparatus effects independently such large economies in working there is no reason why the trade created should not be fair to excess of the above-named figures.

The result of practical experience shows that a boiler lasts on an average 40 years; consequently, in the United Kingdom about 10,000 boilers are made per annum. Even if half this number—5,000—is taken, it will be seen what a large field is open to the company, as the addition of this apparatus will be rendered a necessity in order to ensure the most economical working in the present days of keen competition. In many places where existing boilers are overworked, the addition of this apparatus will save the purchase of new boilers.

In the above statement nothing has been estimated for the foreign patents, as these are considered to be of equal value to those of the United Kingdom, nor for its value in the mercantile marine navies of all countries where patented, nor when applied to locomotives, any of which is a large business in itself.

In addition to the United Kingdom the apparatus has been patented in the United States and Canada, France, Germany, Austro-Hungary, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Russia, India, and applications made elsewhere. The opinion of Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., M.P., as to the validity of the patents is annexed, and a copy of specification of the parent agents.

The assurances must at present being manufactured at temporary works, and plans are in preparation for a fully equipped and well-planned factory, which, with additional plant and machinery, will, it is estimated, cost £5,000.

The ordinary shares will be entitled on a dividend rate not exceeding 10 per cent. per annum. The remaining profits of the company will be payable to the deferred shares as a bonus.

The company have been arranged with Messrs. Cook, Son and Simpson to take the first one of the patents, and to undertake the duties of the pat